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NEWS ROUNDUP

£10m awards to boost research

The Wolfson Foundation is giving £10 million towards established basic research in Britain.

In a letter to universities and academic research centres, Dr Alan Jones, director of the foundation, has explained the terms of a new award scheme.

Support is offered across a wide range of research in science, medicine and technology and could help at least 50 groups in the next year which are in difficulty because of government spending cuts in research.

The foundation will allocate £2 million a year during the next five years with the purpose of helping projects that may founder without additional equipment or staff, and where the contracts of young scientists on short-term grants need to be extended.

Dr Jones hopes the awards will improve the working climate for top scientists who might otherwise be lured abroad by better conditions. The cost of equipment for advanced research has risen faster than inflation.

Move on blacklists

A Bill to compel organizations to open up their blacklists to people who suspect they might be listed on them is to go before the House of Commons next month.

Its sponsor, Mrs Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, said the Bill was aimed at the Economic League, which she alleged is "a right-wing organization which provides companies with information about potential employees". She added: "I regard it as a serious infringement of people's civil liberties that it should be perfectly legal to be spied upon like this."

Second twin dies

The second twin born to Mrs Shirley Weatherby, who was admitted to hospital after a 70-mile ambulance journey, died yesterday.

Claire Weatherby was born prematurely at Brighton, East Sussex, after hospital staff in Reading, Berkshire, tried 25 hospitals before it found one that could offer intensive care. The first twin, Frances, died within three hours.

A relative of Mrs Weatherby said yesterday: "We do not blame the journey. It was the type of pregnancy she had and the early stage at which the babies were born."

Library gets date

The completion date for the new British Library has been moved forward from the beginning of the next century to the mid-1990s.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, denied a report which said he was calling a complete halt to the project at Euston Road, central London, and which suggested a final cost of £1 billion. It is likely that the original six stages will be compressed into two or possibly one final stage.

He added: "We will achieve the main objective, to make it the main library centre in the country."

Old Masters' success

The Royal Academy enjoyed more exceptional business this weekend after Friday's opening of the exhibition of Old Master paintings from the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection jointly presented with The Times.

On Saturday, 2,228 tickets were bought for the show's second day, only a little down on Friday's attendance figure. The Academy said that yesterday had been even busier with visitors making use of the cut-price admission on Sunday morning. Fifty-three Old Masters are on view until June 12. Admission is £3.

Lord King seeks BA expansion

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Lord King of Wartsby, the British Airways chairman, is determined to see his airline grow into a multi-national giant before he hands over the reins to a younger man.

The recently-privatized airline is now the eighth biggest in the world, although it carries more international passengers than any other.

Lord King wants to see BA leap into the "super league" of the top six airlines in the world.

One of his goals is to expand the airline's international route network, especially across the Pacific.

In the short term the airline is likely to create a new European "hub" airport by linking with a large continental airline. Top of the list is the Belgian national carrier, Sabena.

Call for an end to union immunities

By Roland Rudd

The Government should restrict trade union power still further by abolishing unions' immunities and encouraging employers to offer workers individual contracts, according to a report published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The institute, a right-wing "think-tank", says that legislation needs to be radically reformed to abolish trade union immunities which, it says, act as an incentive to strike.

The report argues that pre-strike ballots confer a "spurious legitimacy" on industrial action.

The institute would like to see new legislation which recognized the right for employers and workers to agree to flexible, individual employment contracts which could exclude basic trade union rights.

It seeks an end to redun-

Thatcher war on 'sociological alibis' of crime

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister called at the weekend for criminals to be stripped of sociological alibis for their actions and ostracized by the community.

She indicated that a crusade against crime, centred on the restoration of traditional moral values, is moving to the forefront of her third term in office.

Mrs Thatcher told party members at the Conservative Central Council meeting at Buxton, north Derbyshire, that extra police, tougher sentencing and the new Home Office crime prevention campaign would not alone banish "the shadow of the burglar and the violent criminal".

She said: "In the past, potential criminals were firmly told from all sides: you will be held to blame for

any crime you may commit. But today when someone assaults a passer-by, it is the attacker who becomes, by a perverse twist of logic, a victim of society.

"Most people don't manufacture their own morality. They take it from the culture in which they live. If the cultural messages they receive from people in authority tell them that they are guilty when they steal, burglar, riot or attack others, then they are less likely to commit those crimes.

"But if a culture of excuses has been created for them, they can evade their own conscience and the hard opinion of others. And they are more likely to rob and burglar as a result. The threat of crime will only recede when we re-establish a code of conduct that condemns crime plainly and without exception.

"All those in positions of influence must speak with a strong,

emphatic and single voice on the side of law and civilized behaviour."

Mrs Thatcher specifically singled out left-wing council attacks on the police and broadcasters who she said risked brutalizing young people by ignoring their own standards on violent television programmes.

After last week's radical tax-cutting Budget, she appears intent on extending her economic and social revolution into the sphere of personal behaviour and ethics in an attempt to halt the wave of lawlessness running at a record four million offences a year.

In particular, she is determined to change the climate of opinion surrounding wrong-doing. She wants to sweep away the "fog of excuses", which, she believes, the liberal establishment has long employed to shelter criminals from the full consequences of their actions.

In a stark summary of her

uncompromising approach, she said: "We must also restore a clear ethic of personal responsibility. We need to establish that the main person to blame for each crime is the criminal himself."

The Prime Minister made clear that "professional progressives" among broadcasters, politicians, councillors and social workers would be the first to feel the brunt of her challenge to beliefs that the roots of crime lie in social factors such as poverty, and unemployment.

Government sources confirmed yesterday that the Prime Minister, believing she has secured economic recovery, is increasingly turning her attention to the quality of life. Efforts to change the climate of opinion on crime include:

- The inter-departmental drive to revive the inner cities.
- The independent national inquiry into school discipline.

- The proposed statutory Broadcasting Standards Council to give teeth to complaints about television.
- Housing reform, particularly the redesign of council estates to deter would-be muggers and burglars.
- The national crime prevention drive, backed by a £11.5 million advertising campaign aimed at encouraging individuals and families to band together to deter law-breakers. It is understood that the accompanying handbook is to be revised to include a section stressing that criminals are responsible for the actions.

The Prime Minister was careful not to include churchmen in the list of those she holds responsible for excusing criminality. Sources emphasized yesterday that she did not regard them as in any sense culpable, but that she believed it would help if they "preached a stronger brand of personal morality".

Thatcher given the credit for successful state of economy

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is taking the credit among the general public for Mr Nigel Lawson's success in handling the economy, according to the latest opinion poll conducted for The Times Newspapers.

The Market and Opinion Research International (MORI) survey shows that the Prime Minister is enjoying record levels of approval among voters on the economic front while her Chancellor's ratings are in the doldrums.

Mr Lawson scores far worse than either of his two predecessors, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Denis Healey.

He appears to be suffering both from his relatively low public profile and his reputation for smugness and arrogance, attributes that Conservative backbenchers are now only too happy to put aside as they applaud his radical reform of personal taxation.

Public misgivings over his so-called "rich man's Budget" are also thought to play a part in the electorate's distinctly dusty verdict on his stewardship.

However, as he begins to consider his future after his bruising clash with the Prime

Minister over exchange rate policy, the man who is said to have achieved his political ambition by becoming a successful Chancellor is unlikely to lose little sleep over the latest figures.

If anything, they might encourage him in his belief that his long-term future lies outside politics.

MORI asked a sample of voters whether they thought Mrs Thatcher was doing a good or bad job in a number of key areas.

On five tests of economic competence, she was given a powerful vote of confidence with 76 per cent of voters saying she was doing well on controlling inflation, 62 per cent on managing the economy generally, 53 per cent on interest rates and on managing the balance of payments, and 51 per cent on the pound.

She exceeded her previous best ratings by eight points on inflation, nine points on the economy and four points on interest rates.

Her rating over unemployment, her Achilles heel for so long, also appears to be on the mend.

While 60 per cent of voters believe she is doing a bad job in cutting the unemployment

queues, 32 per cent, double the figure of a year ago, say she is doing well, evidence that the public is beginning to reconsider its previous harsh verdict as the jobless total continues to fall.

However, Mr Lawson's post Budget satisfaction index is minus seven, worse than last year, although considerably better than the minus 19 he recorded after his 1985 statement.

By comparison, Sir Geoffrey Howe's worst result was minus one in 1983, while Mr Healey returned a plus 49 in 1978.

The North/South divide remains in popular perception as wide as ever, according to the survey.

In the South, the number of voters rating the Budget as good for them exceeds pessimists by 17 per cent, the exact opposite of the rating in the North.

For the survey, MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,081 adults aged 18 and over in 72 constituency sampling points throughout Great Britain.

Interviews were conducted face to face on March 17 and 18, 1988.

Owen slips ahead of SLDP

By Our Political Correspondent

The SDP championed by Dr David Owen has jumped ahead of its bigger merged rival for middle ground voters, according to the latest Market and Opinion Research International poll.

The survey, conducted for The Times Newspapers, gives the SDP 7 per cent, one point ahead of the Social and Liberal Democrats, in marked contrast to other polls which

have shown it in danger of complete eclipse.

The figures were reached after penetrating follow-up questions to voters indicating support for any form of the former Alliance.

In the key one they were asked: "If there was a candidate of the new merged Social and Liberal Democratic Party (SLDP) and one of Dr Owen's Social Democratic Party (SDP), which one of

those would you vote for?"

Mr Robert Worcester, chairman and managing director of MORI, said: "We have undertaken a very much more detailed probing than other polls which have been giving 10 per cent for the SLDP and between 2 per cent and 3 per cent for the SDP."

"By making it clear what we were talking about, it moved Owen into the lead over the Steel and Macleanman party."

Poll tax efficiency guide

Councils face cost yardstick

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Voters are to be given a simple yardstick to measure the efficiency of their local council when the community charge is introduced in 1990, it has been disclosed.

The aim is to put pressure on councillors to bring their spending into line with government targets and to eliminate what ministers regard as the extravagance and perversity of Labour-controlled town halls.

The at-a-glance guide will be contained in the community charge bills to be sent to every adult when the rates are scrapped.

One side of the bill will give in detail in pounds per head how the local authority arrives at its charge or poll tax by totalling county, district and parish spending and then subtracting the contribution from Whitehall grant and the uniform business rate.

On the other side under the same headings will be dis-

played the various figures that would apply if the council was providing a standard level of service, efficiently taking account of local needs.

The plan was announced by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, at the Conservative central council meeting in Buxton, north Derbyshire on Saturday.

He said: "The voter won't need a GCSE in mathematics to understand the figures. Everyone will be able to see at a glance how his local authority is performing, and he will be able to make simple comparisons with neighbouring authorities."

"Rates do not provide the voter with any idea of how his authority matches up. The community charge will make it clear to voters - all voters - how their local authority spending compares with others. They may be less keen to vote for extravagance and inefficiency."

Local authority debt totalled £51.7 billion, the equivalent of £910 per person, at the end of the last financial year, according to a survey published yesterday. Interest payments on the increased borrowing during the year were equal to £88 per head of population, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy said.

The institute, the professional association representing accountants in the public sector, said more than one fifth of all new local authority capital funding came from leasing arrangements, outlawed last week by Mr Ridley.

Among metropolitan district councils, leasing accounted for about one third of all new debt.

The significant use of leasing methods rather than traditional borrowing is sure to have prompted Mr Ridley to outlaw it, the association said.

Only about a quarter of the usual weekend services operated in and out of Dover, causing long delays. But with the Easter weekend approaching, things could get a lot worse.

The NUS says French and Belgian unions have agreed not to handle P&O vessels unless agreement is reached with the employers.

Cross-Channel traffic which eased over the weekend, built up again at Dover yesterday.

Kent police resumed stacking lorries awaiting cross-Channel sailings on the M20 as many drivers faced delays of up to 48 hours. Day trips to France were cancelled and passengers arriving without reservations were diverted to Folkestone.

The Dover seamen admit that weekend action by French seamen in a

Labour set minimum pay target

The Labour Party will enter the next election committed for the first time to a specified target for a national minimum wage under proposals being drawn up by a group reviewing party policy.

The figure might be set at £100, but it would be introduced over three years to spread the cost.

Its establishment would mean a restructuring of the bottom half of the labour market, including a huge extension of rights for part-time workers to match those of people in full-time employment, a programme of skill training and changes in working practices to accommodate flexible hours and child-care facilities for women.

The first sign of Labour's new thinking was provided yesterday in a speech by Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman and chairman of the "people at work" review group.

Mr Meacher, speaking at Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, said the target "should be pitched at the highest level which will produce the minimum effect in unemployment and inflation."

He also put forward proposals for tackling "Britain's deepening class divide", calling on Labour to commit itself not merely to a crash programme of one million jobs in two years, but to a continuing push towards full employment through expansion of public services, cutbacks in overtime, earlier retirement and job sharing.

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Striking seamen offered new talks with P&O

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Seamen's leaders will decide this morning whether to ballot 20,000 members on a national strike in support of members involved in a seven-week dispute with P&O European Ferries, based at Dover.

The executive of the National Union of Seamen has already taken legal advice over a strike call, which could affect all of P&O's cruise, deep-sea and Royal Navy support ships as well as its gas and oil rig suppliers.

But at its meeting this morning the committee will also be considering a new approach from P&O offering to reopen talks on the company's new manning proposals on the European ferries, which will mean the loss of 400 seamen's jobs. Talks on the issue broke down without agreement at Acas, the arbitration service last week.

But over the weekend, Mr Peter

Ford, chairman of P&O Ferries, said he thought there was a good chance of reaching a compromise. He said: "I would encourage the NUS to look at the Acas proposals and, indeed, look at some of their own suggestions which weren't quantified. I think that if you take the Acas suggestions there is a good chance that we could reach a parallel agreement with the NUS."

Union officials are convinced the new approach has come because of pressure from shareholders. It is estimated that P&O Ferries is losing about £100,000 a day because of the strike by its 2,300 crewmen at Dover. All 11 ships are currently moored in Dutch ports.

The union also feels that solidarity among the Dover crews has shaken P&O. The company had been pinning

its hopes on a majority of its employees at Dover accepting new contracts which were circulated with dismissal notices last week. This has not happened and the strike seems to be as solid as ever.

The union also says that a decision by the ships officers' union to accept new working arrangements and the loss of 130 jobs also included a proviso that they would not operate the ferries from Dover unless the NUS accepted the crewing arrangements.

It appears that P&O is ready to consider a compromise on the central issue of crewing levels for seamen which would mean the loss of around 260 jobs instead of 400 on the cross-Channel routes. The company says it wished to be flexible.

The Dover seamen admit that weekend action by French seamen in a

separate dispute with their own employers had helped their cause.

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Ban helps smokers to give up

By Our Employment Affairs Correspondent

Employers who ban smoking in the workplace are helping thousands of smokers to give up.

Mr John Smith, chief executive of the British Medical Association, said a survey of 350 council employees showed that 60 per cent of those who had given up smoking since the ban were helped by their employers.

Yesterday, in a fall in the number of smokers within the public sector, the BMA said that 60 per cent of those who had given up smoking since the ban were helped by their employers.

Setting aside the fact that smokers during the survey were provided with a "smoking cessation" pack and a "smoking cessation" pack.

The policy was introduced after a survey of 68 per cent of employees in favour of the ban.

Restrictions on smoking in public places were written into the new contracts, and the ban was approved by the staff.

Government departments and private companies are helping smokers to give up.

The awards are given by the BMA to smokers who have given up smoking in the last year. The winners are chosen by a panel of smokers and non-smokers.

The winners are given a certificate and a £100 prize. The winners are also invited to give a presentation to the BMA.

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Senior Tories call for emphasis on a Christian education

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to be urged this week to press Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to insist that children in Britain's schools should receive not just religious education but "Christian" education.

Mr Michael Alison, who used to be Mrs Thatcher's Parliamentary Private Secretary and Lady Cox, an influential voice in Conservative education circles, are to see the Prime Minister, who is believed to have sympathy for their views.

They are to plead that the Government should specify the Christian religion as the dominant component of religious education — a move which would cause controversy in schools and areas where other faiths predominate among pupils.

They want an amendment to the Education Reform Bill now before Parliament.

Mr Alison and Lady Cox will claim poll evidence that 83 per cent of Britain's population considers itself Christian whereas Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and other faiths claim only about 3 per cent of the population as adherents.

They argue that the Education Act, 1944, which made religious instruction in schools compulsory, clearly intended that to be instruction in the Christian religion but that it was so self-evident at that time that the word was not used.

The Education Reform Bill continues to make religious education compulsory. It provides a complaints procedure to uphold that obligation and the broad school curriculum is specifically required to promote the "spiritual, moral and cultural" development of pupils.

In the House of Lords last month Lord Arran, speaking for the Government, ruled out the idea of specifying Christianity as the main component on the grounds that Britain had become a multi-faith society.

In an unreported speech in his Selby constituency last week Mr Alison, who as Second Church Estates Commissioner, is a special link between the Commons and the Church of England, denied that Britain was a multi-faith society.

He insisted that while courtesy and respect must be accorded to other religions "as the dominant traditional religion of the British people, no real appreciation of our culture or history is possible without some proper understanding of Christianity".

Ethnic minorities, he said, were not to be equated with "other faiths". Britain's black population was one of the fastest growing areas for the Christian church.

Mr Alison and Lady Cox, heading a powerful Christian lobby, wished to combat what Mr Alison calls the "education heresy, almost a conspiracy" of the multi-faith syllabus.

Children are being damaged, he says, by syllabuses which include the discussion of rituals such as human sacrifice and encouragement to find out what happens in a séance.

Mr Alison said: "More sinisterly, some multi-faith RE syllabuses are so worded as to allow inclusion of secular and

Some head teachers who are opposed to the Government's education reforms are planning to take early retirement rather than help to implement the changes. Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, disclosed yesterday.

He predicted other heads would be "found wanting" because they could not cope with the "pressures that will accompany the philosophy of the market place that underpins so much of the Bill".

political creeds such as humanism and the militant atheism of Marxist ideology. "The marginalizing, even the exclusion, of Christian teaching is the deliberate aim and policy of some left-wing education authorities in urban areas."

Lady Cox has alleged in the Lords that parents who want and request Christian worship and Christian-based religious education for their children are being denied them.

She complains of the "dilution of Christian teaching in a multi-faith mish-mash" and of its secularization by concentration of social and political issues.

"Preoccupation with the occult and with phenomena such as witchcraft is a recurring theme in many RE courses."

Education ministers say that they see religious education and compulsory school worship as important.

However, they resist the call for a Christian emphasis and are ruling out making religious education a foundation sub-

ject for the national curriculum on the grounds that local discretion would be threatened, as would the right of parents to withdraw their children from the subject.

Meanwhile, Mr Baker is to call on Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and a group of former ministers to fend off any serious damage to his Education Reform Bill in the Lords.

The Bill has been attacked by the Centre for Policy Studies. It yesterday accused the Department of Education and Science, and by implication Mr Baker, of failing to challenge the orthodoxies of the "education establishment", thus reinforcing the division said to exist between the Prime Minister and Mr Baker about implementation of the Bill.

A strong backbench team is to be formed to support Lady Hooper, a junior minister at the department, because the Bill is thought to be the most vulnerable legislation in this session in the Lords.

The report stage of the Education Reform Bill should arrive in the Lords after Easter. Although full-scale wrecking tactics are not expected, peers can seriously erode Mr Baker's plans.

The most hard-fought battles are likely to be over optional proposals, the national curriculum, further education, the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority and the special needs provision.

The Lords has defeated the Government previously over the abolition of ILEA and, before his retirement, Lord Whitlaw predicted possible defeats by peers on the Bill.

The curriculum the Prime Minister is believed to want to see imposed on schools is set out in the pamphlet published yesterday by the Centre for Policy Studies.

Dr Sheila Lawlor, deputy director of the centre who wrote the pamphlet, says there is a danger that the proposed national curriculum will merely reflect the views of teachers, their unions, local education authorities "and worst of all her Majesty's Inspectors".

If that happens, she says, the national curriculum will ensure bad practice and so lower standards, already suggested by the interim reports of two working groups.

Correct Core (Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL; £3.90).

Casting off for an island fling



Off duty: Sue Lawley, the broadcaster, taking her children Harriet, aged seven, and Tom, aged 11, for a walk in Richmond Park, west London, with Cleo, the family dog, a golden retriever. Miss Lawley was relaxing before she starts an extra job next week presenting *Desert Island Discs*, the radio series, on BBC Radio Four.

Miss Lawley, aged 41, who married for the second time recently, this time to Mr Hugh Williams, a BBC controller, said of the series at her home in Putney, south-west London: "It's a proper job because it's all yours. In radio there are none of the technological and electronic complications of television."

A walk in the park is a rare treat. Miss Lawley said: "I just don't get time to

relax. Frankly, at the moment I am doing four days work on the news. I'm already recording some *Desert Island Discs* shows for the 'can' and I've just finished standing in for Wogan. My professional life is hugely demanding. I mean too demanding. I get very tired."

Tom, who was home for the weekend from his boarding school in Oxford, and Harriet, who goes to a local school in Putney, ran off with the dog, and Miss Lawley added: "For all that I grumble, I thoroughly enjoy it and I'm really excited about this *Desert Island Discs* thingy."

Miss Lawley, who was nicknamed "Lollipop" when she was a child, "probably because we had a shop which had a cat at one end and we used to sell lollipops", comes from Dudley, West

Midlands, and was once a district correspondent in Merthyr Tydfil.

She confessed that she would make a fairly useless castaway herself.

"I could catch a fish but I couldn't get it off the hook, but I couldn't catch a rabbit, and even if I could I couldn't skin it, so I don't think I'd do too well", she said.

She added, as she walked through the mud in jeans: "I'm looking forward so much to this radio job. It doesn't matter what you look like and I don't have to have my hair done or care about my make up."

"It's a great relief and a great escape because I hate all that — it's boring." (Photograph report: Stephen Markusson)

Telecom may pay for faulty service

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

British Telecom is considering paying compensation to large business customers for service failures or for delays in installing new lines or equipment.

The idea has come from Telecom officials, who feel they should accept some form of limited liability if the corporation fails to meet standards for faults, repairs and connections.

It is understood that senior managers began discussing the possibility of compensatory payments after criticisms of its services, particularly in the City of London — about six months ago.

At present, customers have no claim against the corporation for financial losses due to service failures caused by late installations or connections because of a non-liability clause in its customer contracts.

Telecom is also considering

the introduction of a lower scale of rental charges for people, such as invalids and pensioners, for whom the telephone is more of a lifeline than a social requirement.

Telecom said last night that these matters were being looked at. Once the ideas had been formulated they would have to be put to Professor Bryan Carsberg, director-general of Ofel, the government body set up to oversee Telecom affairs.

Professor Carsberg will try to ensure that the cost of compensation payments or concessionary telephone rentals will not be passed on to other subscribers in higher charges.

Telecom introduced a low user rebate scheme about five years ago which benefits about three million customers who use their telephones sparingly. The rebate costs Telecom about £20 million a year.

BBC revamps news bulletin

By Andrew Billen

BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* is to be overhauled this autumn with an elite team of reporters and producers assigned to the flagship bulletin to provide more reporting in depth.

The programme may be lengthened by five minutes, with probably a single newscaster presenting it.

Mr Tony Hall, editor of television news and current affairs, and Mr Mark Thompson, the bulletin's new editor, said the revamp would be more fundamental than previous facelifts.

Mr Hall said: "You can do anything you like with sets, titles and effects, but changes to the content, which I believe is already very good, are what will really count."

Though the changes have not yet been settled, Mr Hall's preferences run to new titles, new sets, and — most radically — a return to the use of a single newscaster.

"I favour one presenter. I do not know who it will be, but in Martyn Lewis, Michael Buerk, Sue Lawley and Nicholas

Witchell we have such a strong team we will not need to poach from outside", he said.

The switch to the single-headed presentation of *Newsnight*, which he had ordered, had given authority back to a programme that had "lost its way", he added.

Mr Hall and Mr Thompson are to recruit a separate team of producers and reporters to the programme for its autumn relaunch.

At present reporters are expected to file for the *One O'Clock* and *Six O'Clock News* as well as the afternoon summaries. The regime does not always allow them to stand back and produce a more considered account of the day's events at 9pm, they argue.

The prime mover behind the shake-up is Mr John Birt, the BBC's deputy director general, who first propounded his thesis that television reporting contained a "bias against understanding" 13 years ago.

Mr Thompson, at 30 the

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Win opens door to a new car

A new car is at the top of Jane Ellery's shopping list after winning the £8,000 Saturday Portfolio prize.

Miss Ellery, a television production assistant, lives at Barbury Court, Gifford Park, Milton Keynes.

She said: "I had been thinking of buying a new car anyway. I have been flicking through some magazines already to get some ideas, but I want to give it plenty of thought. I want a car that will be as reliable as my old Mini, which I have had for four years."

She added that she would give half the money to her boyfriend. "It's only fair", she said.

£2m bus fire

Police are investigating a fire which caused more than £2 million damage, destroying 30 buses at the Beeline bus depot, Mill Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, yesterday.

Baby found

Police were searching for the mother of a boy aged about four days found naked in a Worthing churchyard yesterday. The baby was last night in Southampton Hospital, Shoreham, West Sussex.

Ban helps smokers to give up

By Our Employment Affairs Correspondent

Employers who ban their workers from smoking in offices and factories could be helping them to break the habit, a conference in London will be told later this week.

Mr John Styles, deputy chief personnel officer for Ashford council in Kent, will tell a one-day conference organized by the Industrial Society of how the authority restricted smoking among its 350 council employees to a staff room.

Yesterday, he said: "We believe this policy has resulted in a fall in the number of smokers within our organization as working in a smoke free environment has helped them break the addiction."

Setting aside an area for smokers during such a ban provided a "safety valve" and was vital to avoid irritation and conflict.

The policy was introduced after a survey showed that 68 per cent of employees were in favour of smokers having somewhere to light up, but that 69 per cent of workers objected to people smoking in public areas.

Restrictions on smoking were written into people's contracts, and the policy was supported by the trade unions.

Tranquillizer addiction

Cash plea for campaigners

By Ruth Gledhill

An MP is leading a campaign for increased funding for voluntary groups that help tranquillizer addicts to stop taking the drugs.

Mr Robert Wareing, Labour MP for West Derby, Liverpool, has written to Mr Antony Newton, the Minister of State for Health, asking for urgent assistance for the groups, which handle dozens of inquiries daily but are seriously hampered by a lack of funds.

Examples of the groups, which need financial help are Tranx in Harrow, north-west London, and the Council for Involuntary Tranquillizer Addiction in Liverpool.

"One group I know is about

£20,000 in the red, has staff shortages and the telephone never stops ringing. They receive referrals from all over the country and had more than 500 last week alone."

Mr Wareing is leading a group of MPs and has tabled an amendment to the Health and Medicines Bill which is due to reach the report stage at the House of Commons shortly after Easter.

The amendment aims to control the use of repeat prescriptions of benzodiazepines. There were about 26 million prescriptions of this class of drug last year and most were repeats, he said.

The parliamentary campaign comes as nearly 140

firms of solicitors prepare claims for compensation from drug companies and doctors for more than 1,000 tranquillizer addicts alleged to have suffered personal disasters because of their addiction.

More than half of pharmacists failed to tell patients to see a doctor when asked for advice about a potentially serious ailment, according to a survey report published by the College of Health, a branch of the Consumers' Association.

The college said: "A sizeable number of pharmacists continue to accept customers' diagnoses without question and some need to question patients more closely about symptoms."

The college said: "A sizeable number of pharmacists continue to accept customers' diagnoses without question and some need to question patients more closely about symptoms."

HIV-2 is closely related to the first human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1) which is responsible for the global Aids epidemic. So far, few cases of HIV-2 infection have been reported outside west Africa.

The second strain produces the same symptoms of disease as HIV-1.

Second Aids virus found in Britain

By Our Science Correspondent

A second Aids virus, common in parts of west Africa, has been detected in Britain, the Department of Health said yesterday.

The virus, HIV-2, may not be detectable by existing tests because of differences in its chemical structure, and theoretically could contaminate blood transfusion supplies.

It was detected in the blood of a person attending a London clinic for sexually

transmitted diseases. However the carrier cannot be traced because the blood test was conducted anonymously. HIV-2 poses little additional threat to the public, the department said. The risk was infinitesimal, less than one in 10 million.

Scientists have developed a new test which will identify HIV-2, but this is not yet in general use.

The virus was almost cer-

Eyesore prizes for blots on landscape

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Government departments, local authorities and private companies are named today as the winners of "eyesore" awards for damage to the countryside and the environment.

The awards are given by the magazine *BBC Wildlife* to mark the ending of the European Year of the Environment. Readers of the magazine were invited 12 months ago to nominate examples of unnecessary despoliation of the British environment.

The Clothespeg Award for needless air pollution is shared between a Coventry smokeless fuel plant, which ironically produces "highly offensive" smoke and dust, and the Government, for failing to give pollution inspectors greater powers.

The Flattened Hedgehog Award, for "needless sterilization of an urban environment" goes to Hull City Council for contributing to the destruction of a

common which is the home of 30,000 frogs. The land is being turned into a housing estate.

The Rusty Bedstead Award, is given to the residents of Denny in Shropshire, for their "selfish dumping of beds, fridges, three-piece suites and much else" in a disused quarry known locally as the "Fairy Glen".

The Slimy Tin Can Award goes to a soap powder company for piping its waste on to a beach near Whitehaven, Cumbria. The effluent contains arsenic, zinc and lead, contributing to a two-mile long stretch of pollution on the coast, according to the nomination.

The Bulldozer Award is shared among local authorities in Llanelli, Gloucester, North Yorkshire and the Scottish Highlands, and government departments "in recognition of the scale and pace of

landscape destruction around the country."

The authorities are criticized for building a road across a saltmarsh, blocking off a stretch of the Thames-Severn canal, driving a bypass through an ancient wood, and planning to forge a track through a remote glen.

The Scottish Office is accused of failing to take stronger action to protect peatlands in Caithness and Sutherland against forestry development, and the Welsh Office for "colluding" in the scheme to build a barrage across the Taff and Ely estuaries near Cardiff to create a leisure area.

The awards co-ordinator, Mr Michael Scott, said yesterday: "These are not meant to be environmental booby prizes but tools to encourage despoilers to change their often unthinking ways."

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THE MOST CURRENT ACCOUNT

War
incre
child
abus

By Thomson Press

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children says that an increase in the number of child sexual abuse cases is the chance.

Princess Margaret's people say that the Princess is not in the country.

More than 100 people are expected to attend the funeral of a man who died of a heart attack.

Details of the trial of a man who was accused of a crime are given in a book.

The report of the trial of a man who was accused of a crime is given in a book.

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Warning of increase in child sexual abuse cases

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children says there has been an increase in the number of child sexual abuse cases referred to the charity.

Princess Margaret, the NSPCC president, said young people needed education in the realities of parenthood.

More than 2,300 sexual abuse cases were investigated by the society in the 12 months ending last September, among a total of 50,600 children helped for all reasons.

Details of the rise in such cases are published in the society's annual report today. It says that "more and more resources were needed last year to deal with the growing workload concerning child sexual abuse".

The report cites the example of a girl aged eight who was forced to have sexual intercourse with her father, her cousin and two other men. The girl's classmate told a teacher, who contacted the society.

The girl had "serious behavioural problems" and once tried to jump from a second floor window of her school.

A place of safety order was taken out and she was taken into a children's home. The father and the three other offenders were convicted and jailed.

The girl's mother had known about the sexual abuse but had done nothing to stop it, and showed "remarkably little concern over what her daughter had been through", the report says.

Trained child care professionals are helping the girl to recover from her ordeal. "But they have a long and difficult task ahead of them and the girl's future is by no means certain", the report says.

Dr Alan Gilmore, the society's director, said yesterday: "Child abuse, including sexual abuse, remains a crucial issue of national importance which has been fuelled by events such as the Cleveland controversy."

"Child sexual abuse continues to be a growing area of concern to us as more and more reports of cases come in."

According to Princess Margaret, child sexual abuse has been until recently "a taboo subject and something which has been swept under the carpet".

Interviewed by the society's magazine, *The Children's Friend*, she said: "The situation in Cleveland has brought much into focus and I hope everyone concerned will learn from it."

"Certainly we must recognize that child sexual abuse is a very serious problem, but of course, not a new one. I remember discussing it within the NSPCC over 20 years ago."

More could now be done to tackle it, and more children helped. Young people needed to be told the realities of being parents. "Perhaps sometimes they need to be shocked and confronted with the effects of child abuse", she said.

"I think people should know about the horrors which can and do take place. Many terrible things are inflicted upon children, often at very young ages. Shielding one's eyes will not stop this happening."

A "vicious circle of abuse" often occurred with parents assaulting their children because they had been abused themselves by their own parents, she said.

Dr Gilmore said that in the wake of much parental and professional fear and confusion about the sexual abuse of youngsters, the society had distributed around the country three-quarters of a million copies of a booklet answering many important questions.

The society spent a record £14.5 million on helping children in the past year. It has increased its annual child care spending in the last five years. A two-day conference on child sexual abuse is being held by the society in London, beginning on Wednesday.

An idol rich in images



Rose printed satin jacket and bloomer skirt from Christian Lacroix.

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor, Paris

Even the most brilliant fashion designer cannot prosper if he restricts his efforts to the hothouse atmosphere of a couture salon. Christian Lacroix, the fashion world's newest idol, had been restless for some years to break free from such rarified confines and risk his design ideas at street level. It is the reason he says that he left Paton to set up on his own last year.

The Lacroix ready-to-wear line, paraded last week to considerable acclaim, assures his solid foothold in the more open market but it was in fact just the first round in this energetic designer's bid for global supremacy in the style industry.

Lacroix's aggressive challenge to St Laurent or Lagerfeld is to produce not one, but two ready-to-wear lines. Lagerfeld it must be said, produces four collections each season although not all in Paris and only one of which is in his own name.

Christian Lacroix launched Luxe, his off-the-peg up-market collection last season which sells in his own recently opened Faubourg St Honoré boutique and in exclusive shops around the world. Harrods, Browns and Barneys in London have it. The new season's Luxe line was shown at the weekend.

As a result Lacroix is kept busy shuttling between his own salons where the exclusive collection of just 15 basic silhouettes is being shown, and the Hotel Bristol across the street in the faubourg where the 100 or so outfits in



Lacroix's sleek, grey wool suit with a long fitted jacket and Mongolian lamb puffed sleeves (Photographs: Harry Kerr).

his mass market ready-to-wear line is doing a brisk trade to the store buyers.

The arrival in the fashion world of Christian Lacroix Luxe and prêt-à-porter adds up to an achievement far more vital than merely another designer label. In under two years Lacroix's individual style has had enormous impact on the way women dress and the way in which other designers perceive women's needs.

Glamour is pleasurable once more. The colour and texture of clothes are appreciated. Lacroix is a generous designer and provides women at each price level with the same rich images: a mix of velvet, tapestry and glowing wool. In his Luxe line the elaborate decoration that he loves is built in with flamboyant embroidery, mostly in jet, centred on simple hooded coats of fluffy mohair and also in the

intricate Renaissance smocked, padded and embroidered sleeves in a sheath of shot bronze or purple velvet.

In his new ready-to-wear collection as well as in Luxe, Lacroix shows the way towards a softer silhouette. Although his famous puffball still survives at Luxe level as a bloomer dress, skirts in general are more gently belled. A tiered pleat at the back of jackets cleverly finishes as doubled pocket flaps at the side.

His signature shawl collars are mohair mufflers wrapped across shoulders of coats.

His colours, prune, aubergine, violet, gold, and his choice of rich paisley, tapestry and "carpet" print velvet reflect his reverence for the flamboyant excesses of the sixties and the impact then made by a visit to London on an impressionable Lacroix.

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

HMSO is a showpiece for entrepreneurs in pinstripes

The managerial revolution promised by the Prime Minister when she accepted the Ibbs report recommendation to hive off blocks of Civil Service work holds no terrors for her Majesty's Stationery Office, a prime candidate for the new "executive agency" status.

For one thing, the Stationery Office has been adapting to the new managerialism for more than a decade, most dramatically since 1980 when it became a Trading Fund and was given annual financial targets.

For another, the Stationery Office has been through its own publisher's trial by ordeal. For the sake of consistency, ease of handling and reduced cost, it not long ago recommended the abandonment of the old format for crown documents known as Royal Octavo and its replacement by metric A4. The stationery traditionalists have loud voices and convened three parliamentary debates. After that act of modernization, it will be plain sailing.

Mr John Dole, its controller who has the rank of deputy secretary, has seen opportunity in Ibbs since he first read the report last September. It fits squarely with the evolution of the Stationery Office which has tightened and trimmed and shed nearly half its workforce since 1980. He discovered on arriving at its corporate headquarters in Norwich (after a career in mainstream departments and at the Property Services Agency and the Crown Agents) "it is surprising how often underneath the pinstripe there is an entrepreneur".

The Stationery Office already has the ingredients for a successful Ibbs agency: corporate spirit and enthusiasm; an awareness on the part of both the industrial and white-collar work force. Mr Dole says, that jobs depend on adequate financial performance.

Executive status as envisaged in Ibbs ought to allow Mr Dole and his successors to juggle more freely than they can now between capital and revenue, saddled as they are with a high rate of interest on their originating debt.

The Stationery Office employs big-volume printers, publishers, graphic designers and office equipment purchasers masquerading as Civil Servants. It gets them at Whitehall rates.

The Ibbs report ought to mean that the Stationery Office management can reward its people properly, although this is unlikely to mean filling the car park at its offices at St Crispins in Norwich as full of company cars as, say, the car park at James Dickinson or Maxwell Communications Corporation.

The Stationery Office has all the attributes of a printing and publishing conglomerate; its turnover is £322 million a year. It is a big buyer of office equipment, photocopiers, typewriters and word processors. Its back list includes 40,000 titles.

Recent publications include coffee table glossies such as *Cocoa and Corsets: A Selection of Late Victorian and Edwardian Posters* and

Showcards, published on behalf of the Public Record Office, and utilitarian reports such as *The Use of Very Low Calorie Diets in Obesity*, a Department of Health and Social Security study last December, and not forgetting its bestseller at 60p, *The Highway Code*.

The Stationery Office is a middleman, buying paper in bulk and organizing print runs for the rest of Whitehall. It has, Mr Dole says, changed from being a mildly regulatory body telling departments what letterheads and pencils they need to being more consumer oriented, especially now Whitehall is free to seek other suppliers of printing and paper clips.

Why not, some Conservative MPs have asked, privatize the Stationery Office altogether? The answer is it uses the private sector for the bulk of government printing but only a public sector co-ordinator can be motivated to make Whitehall itself more economical and effective in use of stationery.

The Stationery Office functions analogously to the Central Purchasing Unit, constantly testing prices, and ensuring Whitehall gets value for money.

It is not just that the Stationery Office retains, in house, the capacity to print documents that need special security, such as last week's Budget papers; there are security printers in the private sector. Nor is it the Stationery Office's historical role as printer of Hansard and trusted publisher of parliamentary papers, still the most politically significant part of its business.

It is more that the Stationery Office functions as a consultant to departments on their printing, stationery and publishing needs, and one moreover accountable for its advice and its prices.

Mr Mike Lynn, director-general of corporate services, labels it a "slightly masochistic process" as by advising departments on how to cut their costs the Stationery Office also cuts its own income. It is proud that recently it cut the cost of a printing job for a department by recommending that it use a smaller envelope: a private sector printer would have had a built-in incentive to go for bigger envelopes with a bigger margin.

The Stationery Office can never, Mr Dole says, be motivated by profit alone. There is a broad sense of public purpose which has to be retained. During the next few months, consultants and officials will be drafting guidelines for the office's new status.

If they do not find room in them for the Stationery Office's public responsibilities (its commitment to high quality graphic design, its representation on 90 different British Standards Institution committees, its research and development role in papers and equipment) they may squeeze some of the distinction out of an eighteenth-century institution that has adapted to the 1980s with remarkable success.



Mr Dole: Jobs linked to financial performance.

Rail speed hope from tunnel

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail is examining proposals which could lead to the introduction of passenger services to towns in south-east Kent travelling at up to 128 miles an hour. They could be part of the spin-off from the need to increase rail capacity to serve the Channel tunnel in the mid-1990s.

On existing plans trains using the tunnel would be able to do speeds of 180 miles an hour. On Continental high-speed lines, but through Kent they would be limited to 100 miles an hour or less. That will be the position when the tunnel opens in 1993.

However, a report known as the Kent Impact Study, published last August, said: "It is evident that there will in the mid-1990s be peak capacity for passenger services."

One of the complicating factors is the problem of making 100 mph non-stop trains for the tunnel with much slower stopping commuter services.

British Rail has been studying those problems since last summer, and is due to submit proposals for resolving them to Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State at the Department of Transport, in June.

Motorway repairs

Motorway repairs

Motorway repairs

Motorway repairs

Road standards optimism

The decline in the standard of roads in England and Wales may have been halted, according to a study by the Department of Transport. The overall condition, however, is still worse than it was in 1977.

Every year since 1977 an assessment of the condition of roads, excluding motorways, has been made at 9,000 sites. Centrally between 1980 and 1986 the survey showed declining road conditions.

However, the 1987 survey shows that conditions had not deteriorated in the previous 12 months.

The department said it would be premature to conclude that this marked an end to the trend of deterioration, and that more than one year without higher defect levels would be required before that conclusion could be drawn. Motorway repair works until next Monday.

London and South-east

M11 Essex: contraflow between jns 8 and 10 (Bishop's Cleeve/Duxford).

M25 Surrey: overnight lane restrictions between jns 11 and 13 (Chertsey/Staines); off-peak lane closures between jns 6 and 12 (Godstone/M3).

M25 Hertfordshire: off-peak and overnight lane closures on both carriageways between jns 24 and 25 (Potters Bar/A10).

M2 Kent: lane closures near Farthing Corner service area and exit slip roads to service area down to one lane.

M20 Kent: contraflow between jns 11 and 13 (Hythe/Folkestone).

Midlands

M5 Hereford/Worcester: contraflow between jns 5 and 6 (Droitwich/Worcester North); north-bound entry slip road at jn 6 closed.

M6 W Midlands: south-bound entry slip road closed at jn 6 (Birmingham central).

North

M6 Cheshire: contraflow between jns 16 and 17 (Kids Grove/Sandbach) and occasional slip road closures.

M6 Lancashire: contraflow between jns 29 and 31 (A6 at Chorley/A59 Preston).

M63 Greater Manchester: single-lane traffic between jns 3 and 6; allow extra time for journeys to Manchester airport.

Wales and West

M4 Wiltshire: outside lane closed east-bound and two lanes closed west-bound, west of the Membury services.

M4 Great: lane closures between jns 26 and 27 (Newport/High Cross) for barrier repairs.

M4 Glamorgan: lane closures and a contraflow between jns 33 and 37 (Cardiff West/Pyle).

Scotland

M8 Lothian: east-bound traffic restricted to hard shoulder at jn 3 (A899); east-bound entry slip road at jn 3 closed.

M8 Strathclyde: east-bound lane closures between jns 16 and 15 (Glasgow city centre/Townhead).

M90/A90 Fife: single-lane traffic in both directions on the M90 at jn 1.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch

AA plans drivers' information line

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

The Automobile Association may join the growing band of businesses operating a premium rate telephone information service.

The motoring organization is planning to offer up to 300 topics, including technical and legal and buying advice for car purchase, information on road works and breakdowns by region, estimates of journey times in Britain and on the continent, insurance and travel cover, and financial services.

Recorded information already collected by the AA will thus be used to produce income and provide a new public service. The organization already supplies road traffic services to the

press and to radio stations, which use them about every half hour. Non-members of the AA, which has a membership of 6.4 million, will be able to use the service.

If the AA decides to go ahead, the calls, which cost up to 38p a minute in peak time, will be at the top end of the telephone information services market which, when it was introduced in 1986 after the privatization of British Telecom, attracted a more more scurrilous type of client selling sexual services. Since then health and medical services have joined the system along with the *Financial Times* and the BBC which supply and update information from their news gathering operations.



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Vietnam (Reuters) - From a...
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Korean inquiry

Seoul (The Associated Press) -...
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Spying admission

Bonn (Reuters) - A German...
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APR 10 1984

Airlift of US troops to Honduras could hurt chances of \$48 m aid package

Reagan tries last-ditch move to save the Contras

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan, in a last-ditch effort to drum up Congressional support for the Nicaraguan Contras, admitted at the weekend that they were now on the brink of collapse.

He accused the left-wing Sandinista Government in Nicaragua of taking advantage of the cut-off of US aid to the rebels, and said if urgently needed help did not reach them soon "we face the prospect of a collapse of the democratic resistance".

His message was aimed at Congress, which is today due to consider a \$48 million (\$22 million) aid package proposed by Republicans and moderate Democrats. "Instead of giving peace a chance, the aid cut-off is giving the communist dictators a chance — a chance they have long hoped for, a chance to smash their opponents", he said.

The presence of US troops in Honduras was meant, he said, to send a signal to the governments and peoples of Central America about the seriousness with which the US viewed the situation. "The freedom-fighters are in desperate need of support", he said. "If they are to remain a viable and effective force, they must have assistance now. There is not a moment to spare."

The proposal for new aid, including \$5 million in military support, will be fiercely opposed by many Democrats. Mr Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, said on Saturday that the airlift of US troops to Honduras may have created a backlash in Congress that could hurt the chances of fresh aid.



Troops of the US 82nd Airborne Division waiting at the Palmerola air base in Honduras for helicopters to land and take them on a training exercise.

Man in the News

Washington lawyer bridges the divide

From Martha Honey, San José

When the Nicaraguan Government sits down for the fifth round of ceasefire talks with the Contras, scheduled to start today in the border town of Sapoá, their negotiating team will, once again, include an American: Mr Paul Reichler, a Washington-based lawyer.

While the US Congress has officially halted aid to the Contras, the Sandinistas are utilizing hundreds of American volunteers. They have hired experts in hospitals, schools, and agriculture and water projects.

For the peace talks, the Sandinistas have hired a two-man New York public relations firm, Agendas International, to brief the press and put out English language communications during the talks.

Last December, as the first round of negotiations was being organized, President Ortega chose Mr Reichler, aged

40, and another foreigner — Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, a West German parliamentarian — to make up the original team.

"It's a challenge to be involved in an effort to achieve peace in Nicaragua and I'm flattered that I was selected. But I'm also aware of the heavy responsibility," Mr Reichler said.

Even the Contras say that Mr Reichler has handled the responsibility well. Señor Alfredo Cesar, a senior Contra leader, said: "I'd like him to be working for us, not for them."

Señor Alfonso Robelo, another Contra leader who knows Mr Reichler well, described him as "young, bright and very well informed about the situation." Señor Robelo and the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mr Jim Wright, credit Mr Reichler with encouraging the

Nicaraguan Government to adopt democratic reforms. Mr Reichler denies he is responsible for the stream of Sandinista concessions, which have helped the Government to get the upper hand in the negotiations. He says he was chosen because of his experience in international law, his contacts on Capitol Hill, and his friendship with a number of Contra leaders.

"I think the (Nicaraguan) Government felt it would be useful to have me on the team because of my ability to communicate with the other side. It might help create a feeling of confidence," he said.

Mr Reichler has represented the Nicaraguan Government for more than eight years. He successfully helped argue Nicaragua's 1984 World Court case, which found US support of the Contras to be in violation of international law.

Moscow prevents Armenia rally

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Soviet security forces yesterday prevented Armenians from holding a rally at a Moscow cemetery where they planned to discuss developments in their campaign for the return to Armenia of an Armenian-dominated region which is now part of Azerbaijan.

It was at least the third time that members of Moscow's Armenian community had made their way to the Armenian cemetery seeking information about unrest in the neighbouring southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan which, according to official figures, has left 34 people dead. According to dissident sources the death toll is much higher and could be up to 700.

One week ago about 1,000 Armenians crowded into the cemetery outside the church to call for a rapid solution for the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and to denounce what they called disinformation in the official Soviet press.

Details on the unrest in Armenia and Azerbaijan have been sketchy in the official press, reportedly because the Communist Party authorities have not decided what attitude to take.

In addition to the question of whether to redraw federal borders and the ethnic nature of the problem, there are religious divisions which the Kremlin must be careful not to exacerbate — the Armenians are Christian and the Azerbaijanis are Shia Muslim.

About 200 Armenians were turned away from the cemetery yesterday. Last Sunday the Armenians brought banners to their meeting, which had all the signs of a political demonstration.

Moscow (AFP) — Twenty Crimean Tatars seeking to return to their Black Sea homeland were detained by police in a demonstration by 1,000 in the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan and a protest near the Kremlin. Moscow set up a commission to look into grievances, but Tatars say measures so far are too restrictive.

The previous week a smaller number of Armenians had mourned their dead and listened in silence while distraught witnesses recounted details of the massacres of the Armenian minority of the Azerbaijan city of Sumgait.

Soviet authorities now recognize that "pogroms" took place in Sumgait, started by rumours of the killings of Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been part of Azerbaijan since 1923.

The Moscow Armenians were seeking information yesterday on last Thursday's decision by the Nagorno-Karabakh Communist Party authorities who issued a resolution calling for the return of the region to Armenia. Details have not been made public in the national press.

The party's resolution brings the region into direct conflict with the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee in Moscow which, in its only public pronouncement on Nagorno-Karabakh, rejected the redrawing of territorial boundaries.

At the same time the resolution adopted by the regional party authorities is in line with a vote taken on February 20 by the Nagorno-Karabakh Assembly and is a clear sign that the Armenians are determined and united in their campaign to have Nagorno-Karabakh returned. Armenians make up 75 per cent of the 160,000 population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

At a press conference in a Moscow apartment on Saturday the Armenian radical, Mr Faruk Ahrkan, who is based in Yerevan, said the Armenians planned to resume mass demonstrations in the Armenian capital next Saturday if their territorial demands were not met.

America tells Noriega to leave while he has the chance

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The United States yesterday stepped up pressure on General Manuel Noriega, with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Colin Powell, President Reagan's National Security Adviser, telling him bluntly to leave Panama immediately.

"I think his future is rather dim," Mr Powell said on television yesterday. "He will have to leave, sooner or later. And we will keep up the pressure on him to do so."

Mr Shultz said the general still had an opportunity to make a "semi-graceful exit from Panama". But he said that if General Noriega, after rebuffing American negotiators at the weekend, did not take the chance to go to Spain, the option would disappear.

He said support for General Noriega was eroding and both civilians and the military wanted him to leave. It was "out of the question" that the US would quash the drug-smuggling indictments against General Noriega, he said.

The Panamanian leader could also not have any say in a transitional government because he had tried to provide an illegal change through a virtual coup.

"What he has to do is leave, and he should settle quickly before the opportunity to go to Spain should disappear," Mr Shultz said.

Two State Department emissaries, Mr William Walker, the deputy assistant secretary for Central America, and Mr Michael Kozak, the department's legal adviser, returned to Washington at the weekend after pointing out to

General Noriega the problems he would face, at home and abroad, if he tried to hang on.

State Department officials said the two men also emphasized that after the failure of last week's military rebellion, others contemplating an uprising would try to kill General Noriega.

The State Department negotiators made it clear that the US would not agree to the general remaining in Panama or going to the Dominican Republic. Washington believes that if he went to somewhere so close he would use his vast wealth to foment trouble in Panama and try to stage a return.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that federal law enforcement officials tried to indict General Noriega for illegal gun-running in 1980 but the Carter Administration stalled their attempt for fear of upsetting Panama.

The report said the move came six weeks after Panama had helped the US by giving refuge to the deposed Shah of Iran.

● PANAMA CITY: The deadlock in negotiations over the departure of General Noriega and a national strike due to begin today are likely to aggravate Panama's political crisis, (writes David Gollob).

Entrenching itself against mounting pressure, the Government has declared a state of emergency and has put all essential public services under the control of the armed forces. In a statement at the weekend the military high command admitted that negotiations between General Noriega and US

State Department emissaries had taken place on Friday.

The statement did not elaborate on the talks, but said proposals made by the emissaries had been rejected as "extraordinary, unacceptable and anti-Panamanian".

General Noriega is believed to be pressing for a formula which would enable him to resign without loss of face, leaving the military high command intact and with an agreement on the formation of a transitional government that would exclude Señor Eric Delvalle, the former President of Panama.

The military has been purged of officers thought to have been involved in the attempted coup last week.

Meanwhile, the opposition of umbrella groups known as the Citizens' Crusade has called for an

indefinite general strike "to last until Noriega goes". Despite the evident unpopularity of the regime, the Crusade, led by prominent businessmen, seems to have acquired more publicity in the foreign press than committed followers in Panama.

The current one seems gratuitous as the economy has already been brought to a standstill by the Government's cash shortage and the shutting of the private banking system.

The Government has threatened to take action against the private banks, which it accuses of refusing to co-operate in the search for a solution to the cash crisis, triggered by the freezing of Panamanian government bank accounts in the US. Panama's currency is the US dollar.

Los Angeles Aids explosion forecast

From Iver Davis, Los Angeles

As many as 340,000 people in California's densely populated Los Angeles County may be infected with the Aids virus within three years, according to a new report.

The long-awaited study on the human and financial impact of the epidemic presents higher than expected figures. The report says the number of people who will be actually afflicted with the disease by 1991 could be 44,000.

The report estimates that the county's \$32 million (\$20 million) a year budget for tackling Aids may have to be tripled. Even that, the experts say, is too conservative — and the cost in Aids-related care and education could be more than \$2 billion.

Los Angeles County has 15 million of California's 25 million residents, and is one of the most heavily populated areas in the United States. The report criticized the region's efforts to educate high-risk groups, blaming a reluctance

to "offend" the majority of the population by distributing explicit medical advice.

"This report points out, and not in any hysterical and panicky way, that we are facing a major problem with Aids which some people have not yet acknowledged," said Rabbi Allen Freehling, chairman of the Aids commission.

"There is a tremendous amount of avoidance in all of this. It won't happen to me; my family is not going to be affected." But what this report is going to say to everyone is that "You're wrong. Your life is now affected by this epidemic whether directly or indirectly."

The report is the most comprehensive study of how Los Angeles officials should deal with the disease over a five-year period. The latest figures in Los Angeles show there were 4,354 confirmed cases of Aids in Los Angeles this year — including 2,722 who have died.

Western diplomats in Tripoli are almost certain that a newly-appointed minister in the Libyan Government is one of the 32 Libyans who were expelled from Britain in 1984 after the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

Mr Maatouq Muhammad Maatouq became Secretary for Vocational Training last week after a vote by the General People's Congress. In April, 1984, the Home Office said that a Mr Maatouq Muhammad Maatouq had been arrested and put on a plane to Tripoli. Britain broke off relations with Libya a few days later.

Diplomatic sources said that efforts to establish with certainty that it was the same man had drawn blank because Tripoli had given no biographical details of the new minister.

But it was considered almost certain, and no significance was attached to the difference between the spell-

ing of Maatouq and Matooq. Because of transliteration difficulties, Arab names can have variable spellings in English.

Sir Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and adviser to the Police Federation, yesterday condemned the appointment as "provocative".

He said that if Mr Maatouq proved to be the man who was expelled, Britain's 11 EEC partners should refuse to have dealings with him.

The EEC agreed after WPC Fletcher's murder not to allow Libya to post any of the expelled men to their countries. Sir Eldon said that although no one had foreseen that one of them might become a minister, the same principle should apply.

The Mr Maatouq who was expelled in 1984 was not in the Libyan People's Bureau, as the former Libyan Embassy had been renamed, when shots fired from it killed WPC

Fletcher, who was on duty outside in St James's Square. But he was arrested at another London address and expelled before the others.

Sir Eldon said that the fact that Mr Maatouq was not in the Embassy at the time should not prevent him from being blacklisted. "I don't think the Government would have expelled him if they had not had reason to think he was a bad influence."

WPC Fletcher's mother, Mrs Queenie Fletcher, said yesterday: "All those who were connected with the Bureau must have known who was shot her. If they are going to make heroes out of these people Britain should continue to have nothing to do with Libya."

Reports at the time of WPC Fletcher's death said that Mr Maatouq was one of four Libyan students who seized the Libyan Embassy in February, 1984, and turned it into the People's Bureau.

Bombs black out El Salvador polls

San Salvador (Renter)

Guerrilla attacks left most of El Salvador without electricity and kept private traffic off the roads yesterday as people voted in national elections.

Army lorries, government buses and transport laid on by political parties took people to polling stations.

There was a heavy military presence in San Salvador. Soldiers in full combat uniform patrolled the roads, armoured cars were stationed at street corners, and helicopters kept watch.

Troops cordoned off the streets around polling stations in case of rebel attacks. Urban guerrillas had warned that they would strike at military units in the city, but there were no reports of clashes.

The left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), vowing to disrupt what it called "the electoral farce", kept almost all traffic off the roads with a threat to attack vehicles.

Sabotage attacks on power

pylons left the country, apart from San Miguel City in the east and a section in the west, without electricity.

Bombs could be heard exploding throughout San Salvador at regular intervals on Saturday night but only one person was reported injured.

More than 1.6 million Salvadoreans out of a population of 3.5 million are registered to vote for 60 National Assembly deputies and 262 mayors. The polls are considered a crucial test for President Duarte's Government, a key Central American ally of the United States.

The right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance is expected to benefit from the deteriorating economy and stalemate in the civil war, and cut the ruling Christian Democratic Party's National Assembly majority.

In San Salvador, voting started sluggishly. Polling stations were supposed to open at 7am but in some districts the election urns, actually cardboard boxes, arrived late.

At the same time the resolution adopted by the regional party authorities is in line with a vote taken on February 20 by the Nagorno-Karabakh Assembly and is a clear sign that the Armenians are determined and united in their campaign to have Nagorno-Karabakh returned. Armenians make up 75 per cent of the 160,000 population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

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Embattled Hawke faces crisis after rout in poll

From Our Correspondent
Sydney

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, is today facing the biggest crisis of his political career after the weekend rout of the Australian Labor Party in state elections in New South Wales.

Although preference votes are still being counted in some marginal seats, the Liberal-National Party coalition has already captured more than the 55 seats required for a majority in the Lower House, the 109-seat House of Representatives.

So far the results show the Liberal-National coalition winning 58 seats, Labor 30 seats, and the Independent Party, six seats. Votes are still being counted in 15 contests.

The shock waves of Labor's defeat in Australia's most populous state soon reached the federal capital, Canberra, where Mr Hawke accepted part of the blame and then

ordered party chiefs to find out what had gone wrong.

The answer seems to lie at Mr Hawke's own doorstep, with traditional Labor support at grass-roots level dwindling and with the growing disillusionment that has followed the recent series of political blunders, setbacks and scandals involving the Prime Minister.

New South Wales has been a Labor stronghold for 12 years, long before Mr Hawke won the first of his three successive federal election victories in 1983. But at the weekend Labor managed to gain only 40 per cent of the 3.5 million compulsory votes cast there. It is one of the party's worst results in history, and is being hailed by conservatives as the turning of the tide away from Labor.

By contrast the Liberal vote easily surpassed the 6.5 per cent swing against Labor needed for victory. At least five state Cabinet ministers have lost their seats.

The opinion polls had been

suggesting "a cliffhanger result", but within minutes of the polls closing computer predictions indicated the coalition landslide.

The state Prime Minister, Mr Barrie Unsworth, waited three hours before he acknowledged defeat. Immediately the opposition leader, Mr Nick Greiner, aged 40, started celebrations.

A subdued Mr Hawke said he was very disappointed. "Obviously

'Breaker' Morant retrial

Sydney — The Australian folk hero soldier, Harry "Breaker" Morant, is to be given a retrial 86 years after being executed by a British firing squad for murdering prisoners in the Boer War (Our Correspondent writes).

The trial will be held at Burrinjuck in South Australia in May. Mr David Jennings, a former policeman, says he will produce "witnesses" allegedly kept out of the way by Lord Kitchener, who was head of the

what we in the Labor Party now have to recognize is that there has been a significant swing against the party in New South Wales and that it has been a very substantial swing in traditional Labor areas.

"It is sensible and intelligent now that we do not panic and that we sit down without preconceptions to analyze what's happened and to deal with it."

When asked how much he was to

blame for the defeat, Mr Hawke said: "When Labor has a setback obviously as leader nationally I've got to accept some responsibility, and I do."

But he refused to be drawn when asked if one of the main reasons for Labor's poor showing was his admission last week that he had helped Mr Mick Young, the disgraced former Cabinet Minister, to obtain a highly paid job as consultant for the state-owned airline, Qantas.

Mr Young resigned last month as a Cabinet minister in the Hawke Government after acknowledging he failed to disclose a campaign donation in a previous election.

In addition to Labor's demise in New South Wales, there were also big swings against the party in by-elections at the weekend in the states of Victoria and Western Australia.

The federal opposition leader, Mr John Howard, blamed Mr

Hawke for Labor's defeat: "The Prime Minister is a classic example of the little man with a big head who's grossly out of touch with what average Australia thinks."

Labor's loss has also been partly blamed on the introduction of strict new gun control laws.

When he becomes state Prime Minister Mr Greiner will not go ahead with Labor's gun registration and its confiscation of semi-automatic guns. But he will make the licensing of guns tougher and introduce mandatory penalties for carrying guns while committing offences. As promised, he will also introduce the toughest set of anti-corruption measures the state has ever seen.

He said: "I have a clear-cut vision of the sort of state I want — one different from the arrogant, the secrecy, the sleaze, the corruption that we've had for a long time."

Mr Greiner has also promised reforms to the state's hospital and education systems.

Dukakis boost in Kansas caucus

Washington — Governor Michael Dukakis won the Kansas caucus on Saturday with 36 per cent of the vote, his first victory in a Mid-Western farm state and an important boost for the Democratic front-runner (Michael Binyon writes).

The Rev Jesse Jackson polled 31 per cent, Senator Albert Gore was a distant third with 16 per cent, while Congressman Richard Gephardt and Senator Paul Simon, who did not campaign, barely gained any support.

Kansas is a Republican state, and the Democratic caucus is of far less importance than the vote in Michigan this Saturday, where Mr Dukakis and Mr Jackson are in fierce competition.

Islam blamed for suicides

Moscow (Reuter) — Two hundred and seventy women committed suicide by burning themselves to death last year in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, a Soviet newspaper said, suggesting Islam could be to blame.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, in a report from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, said that Islam could be responsible after what it called centuries of trampling on women's honour and dignity.

Royal threats

Sydney — John Cunningham, aged 42, from Western Australia, was remanded in custody charged with making telephone death threats against the Queen, due in Perth to start of a three-week tour of Australia next month.

Britons held

Bayonne, France (Reuter) — French customs arrested two Britons after finding nearly 440 lb of cannabis resin in a lorry they were driving into France from Spain. The names of the two men were not released.

General freed

Taipei (AFP) — Taiwan ended 33 years of house arrest for a former Kuomintang general, Mr Sun Li-jen, aged 88, who was once linked to another officer later convicted as a Communist collaborator.

Basque killing

Madrid — A 23-year-old Civil Guard was shot dead in his car by two men at Durango, in the Basque region. Authorities said the killers were members of the separatist group, Eta.

Heroin seized

Rome (AFP) — Customs officials seized 48 lb of heroin concealed in the luggage of a couple travelling from Bombay to Madrid on South African passports.

Student riot

Port Aransas, Texas (AP) — A beach riot erupted among more than 1,000 students on a spring break, leaving at least three people with stab wounds and two policemen injured.

Rebel advance

Nairobi (AP) — Rebels in northern Ethiopia's Eritrea province said they captured the town of Afabet, taking prisoner two Soviet officers.

China's party chief urges 'glasnost' to make reforms work

From A Correspondent, Peking

The leader of China's Communist Party, in his first key policy statement since taking office last November, has said that more democracy, the introduction of checks and balances and greater attention to public opinion are essential if the country's ambitious reform programme is to succeed.

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the party's General Secretary, told a plenary session of the Central Committee that "greater openness was a prerequisite" in establishing frank discussion between officials and the masses.

Mr Zhao's speech to the four-day session, which ended on Saturday, was clearly intended to establish his supremacy in the leadership hierarchy as Peking prepares for the forthcoming annual session of its rubber-stamp Parliament, the National People's Congress.

In the pragmatic style which was his hallmark in his previous job as Prime Minister, Mr Zhao acknowledged that differences of opinion existed in China — difficulties which, he said, could be resolved only by allowing people greater say in policy making.

"Under a socialist system, conflicts of interest between different interest groups still exist among the people", he said, admitting frankly that some of China's 1 billion people were benefiting from the reforms at the expense of others.

"A great number of social contradictions can be solved through reforms, but during

the reforms new forms of conflict between different interest groups will inevitably arise", he said. He was referring to the controversial reforms launched nine years ago by China's senior leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, and which have resulted in rapidly widening disparities in incomes.

Mr Zhao urged "consultation and dialogue to ensure the smooth implementation of the various measures taken in the reforms, to mitigate social contradictions and consolidate social stability and unity."

His emphasis on discussion "at all levels" in the future of draft laws and important reform plans involving such sensitive areas as wages, labour laws and price rises, was an indication of Peking's concern at the unhappiness which has been aroused by soaring inflation and the ending of lifetime job security. Officials fear an outbreak of social unrest, similar to the student demonstrations which swept China in the winter of 1986.

"We must speak the truth to the whole people", Mr Zhao told the plenum, the first such meeting since a party congress last November. In the past, such sessions have been held only once a year and the new policy is a sign of the importance Mr Zhao attaches to winning broad support for his policies. He also emphasized the need for "a mechanism of checks and balances and to maintain a political situation of stability and unity."

In an unusual reference to

the graver consequences of the reforms, Mr Zhao called for an "honest and clean" government, citing widespread abuse of power by party and state officials who "are seeking to extort money, graft and embezzlement".

He went on: "Communists should be the first to be concerned about their country and people, and the last to enjoy themselves."

Many middle-level cadres have seen their standard of living fall in recent years, pushed down by inflation up to 20 per cent in some cities last year. They deeply resent the present policy which allows some people to get richer faster than others.

The speech, which also focused on economic problems and their solutions, was seen as a prelude to policies to be announced in an annual state-of-the-nation report by the acting Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, at the opening session of the National People's Congress on Friday, according to Chinese sources who have seen a copy of Mr Li's report.

There have been rumours of a split between the two leaders in recent weeks, but the close similarity between the two speeches seemed intended to emphasize the coherence of their ideas and the strength of government and party unity.

Mr Zhao described price rises as a "major problem", but said that inflation was inevitable as "fluctuation of prices will rationalize China's industrial set-up."

Peking accuses the Dalai Lama

Peking — A senior Chinese leader has accused the Dalai Lama of attempting to split China by seeking independence for Tibet, which has been rocked by three violent anti-Chinese protests since last October (A Correspondent writes).

"We have respect for the Dalai Lama but he does not have respect for China, his motherland," President Li Xiannian told a group of Nepalese visitors at the weekend.

"He is actually trying to split the country," Mr Li said, in China's first attack on Tibet's exiled spiritual and temporal leader since Peking accused him of inciting two demonstrations in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, last October.

In the latest unrest at least nine people were reported killed on March 5, when police fired on Buddhist monks who threw rocks during a pro-independence demonstration in Lhasa.

Peking had accused the "Dalai Lama clique" of masterminding the protests in October. The Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India, has said that at least 32 people have died since October.

China has said that the Dalai Lama is welcome to return, and that he can visit Tibet. But China is insisting that he lives in Peking, apparently fearing his presence in Tibet might provoke further unrest. He has consistently refused to return there.

Aquino rules out re-election attempt

Manila (Reuter) — President Aquino of the Philippines yesterday dismissed suggestions she might seek re-election in 1992 even if there was a strong clamour for her to run again.

"I really have no political ambitions... one term is all it would be," she said in a taped radio phone-in programme scheduled for broadcast last night.

Mrs Aquino ran against President Marcos in the election in January, 1986, only after supporters gathered one million signatures from ordinary Filipinos urging her to run. Mr Marcos was overthrown two weeks later in a popular revolt sparked by poll frauds.

She rejected the idea of another popular draft for her, saying: "Those times (1986) were different."

She said she ran in 1986 only because

Mr Marcos's rule had to be ended and added she was only good as a transitional president while the country moved from dictatorship to democracy.

Mrs Aquino also called on all victims of human rights abuses whether by soldiers or communist rebels to come forward file formal complaints, and said the future of US bases in her country would be decided according to the good of the Filipino people.

She said victims of human rights abuses should report their cases to the Government's Commission on Human Rights instead of "just (airing) their grievances in the media."

The appeal came a week after the London-based Amnesty International accused the military and government-

backed vigilante groups of atrocities against suspected rebels.

Mrs Aquino did not say what position her Government would take in negotiations with the United States starting on April 5 on the future of US bases. The treaty allowing Americans use of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base near Manila ends in 1991.

"You can rest assured that the first consideration that will always be in our mind is the national interest, what will be good for our nation and people," she said.

The military chief of staff, General Renato de Villa, on Saturday asked Mrs Aquino for a 24 per cent increase in the armed forces \$233.5 million budget to bolster its capability to fight against the communist rebels.

Young kisses for an old campaigner



A girl planting a kiss on M Chirac at a presidential election rally in the industrial area of Ussel, in Corrèze, central France.

Chirac circus lures Paris crowd

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The Chirac road show rolled into the Paris region yesterday for the Prime Minister's presidential election campaign. Banned by opinion polls showing him polling away from the rival conservative candidate, M Raymond Barre, M Jacques Chirac delivered a vigorous one-hour speech without actually saying anything much about his policies.

But then precious few of the 50,000 or more spectators who had trekked out to the Vincennes racetrack here were in the mood for serious talk. As the Mayor of Paris, M Chirac is always assured of a warm hometown welcome even in the city's "Red Belt" eastern outskirts.

True to form, the rally was expensively and immaculately orchestrated. From mid morning a small army of official stewards jabbering into walkie-talkies directed

coaches from all over the country into pre-arranged parking slots. More eager young campaign volunteers, smothered in the white and blue colours of M Chirac's Rassemblement Pour la République (RPR) Party, shepherded spectators into grandstands.

In the first real spring weather Paris has experienced — and in contrast to poor M Barre's rain-soaked show at Le Bourget a few days ago — the crowd settled down to wait the pre-lunch snacks to await the first attraction. This was a highly entertaining turn, projected on to a huge video screen, by M Charles Pasqua, Chirac's Minister of the Interior and folk hero of the right of centre voters.

Like his boss in this campaign dedicated to "Le Look", M Pasqua does not waste much time over issues. Griev-

ous verbal harm to President Mitterrand (who, we hear, will finally announce his candidature this week) and the Socialist Party was the order of the day.

The next offering came from Johnny Halliday, the veteran French rock and roller, a staunch Chirac supporter. He belted out some song that were first recorded before half the crowd were born. During Halliday's performance, a clamour signalled the arrival of the candidate. Watching M Chirac on the big screen, tanned and smiling, pumping every hand and gripping every elbow, it was clear that the man actually enjoys all this.

It was depressing watching for those in charge of M Barre's campaign. His serious, sensible attempts to convince voters that there are important issues which France should be discussing seems to appeal

only to the truly faithful. Moreover unlike M Chirac, M Barre is just not a natural performer.

Given the superior efficiency of the Chirac campaign machine it is becoming hard to see what M Barre can do in the month left.

Significantly, perhaps, M Chirac's speech yesterday never mentioned the other conservative candidate, never suggested for a moment that it would be anyone but himself who goes through to contest the second round and, we all assume, President Mitterrand.

That would be an entirely different and far more difficult contest for M Chirac, squaring up against an entirely different and tried and tested campaigner. He knows it, despite the unwavering evidence of the polls that the President would find him easier to beat than M Barre.

Strike call in memory of Sharpeville

From Michael Horansky
Johannesburg

Black political groups have called for a national "stay away" from work today to mark the 28th anniversary of what has come to be known as the Sharpeville Massacre, when police opened fire on a crowd of black demonstrators, killing 69 and wounding 186. Commemorative church services are also planned in many black townships.

It was on March 21, 1960, that a large crowd of blacks gathered outside the police station in Sharpeville to protest against the "pass laws",

which were repealed about two years ago.

Young white policemen panicked and started firing, shooting most of the protesters in the back as they ran away. The shooting led to a state of emergency and the banning of the African National Congress (ANC) and the rival Pan Africanist Congress, both of which turned to violence and have operated underground ever since.

Advertisements appeared in newspapers at the weekend calling for March 21 to be observed as a "national day of protest". The advertisements were placed by 13 affiliates of

the United Democratic Front (UDF), one of 17 political organizations whose activities were severely curtailed on February 24. The 13 affiliates were not among those affected by the February decree.

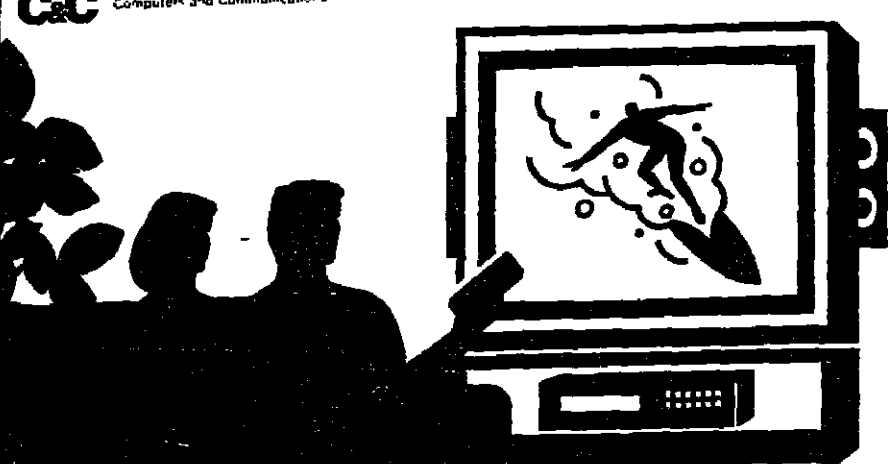
The advertisements proclaimed: "Unban the UDF", and call on "the people of South Africa — our workers, students, traders and professionals", and on all democratic and peace-seeking organizations such as churches, mosques and temples to join the protest.

A call in the advertisements to fight against the death sentence for "patriots" refers

not only to the Sharpeville Six but also to between 30 and 40 other blacks awaiting execution for "politically-motivated" killings. It is likely that today's protest would have taken a more serious form if the Sharpeville Six had not been granted a one-month stay of execution last week.

Over the past few days, the police have arrested six leading members of the Azanian National Youth Union, a black consciousness group, and raided the Johannesburg offices of the Black Municipal and Allied Workers' Union, possibly with the aim of preempting disturbances.

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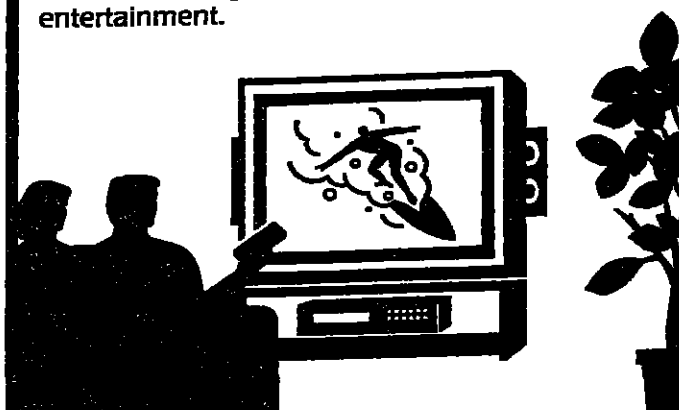
C&C Computers and Communications

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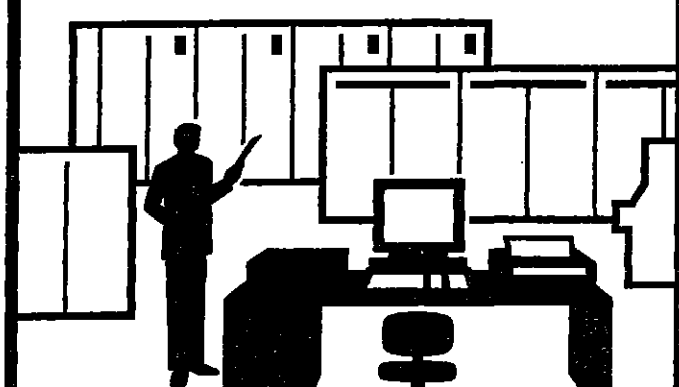
Pagers that do more than just beep. Ours can give you a message. And they alert you quietly by vibrating. Now that's news.



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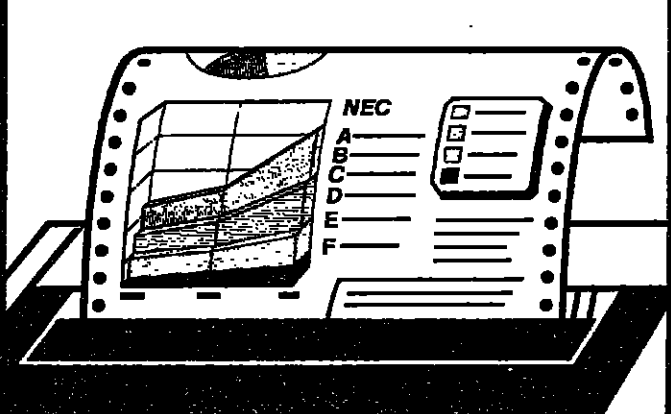
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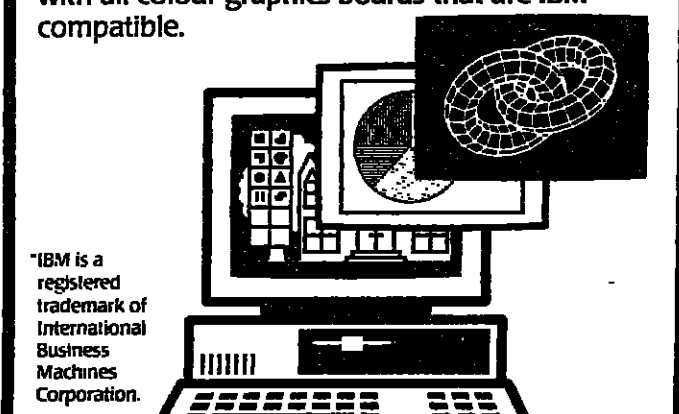
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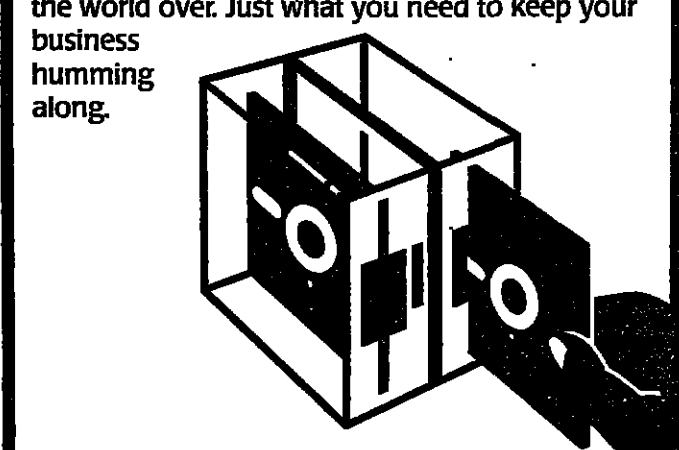
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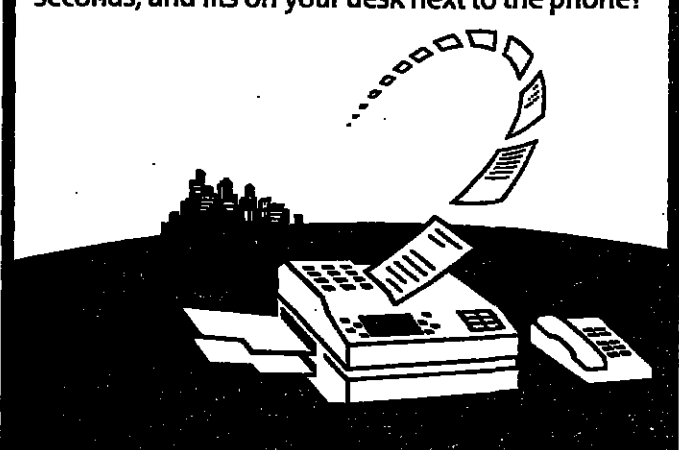
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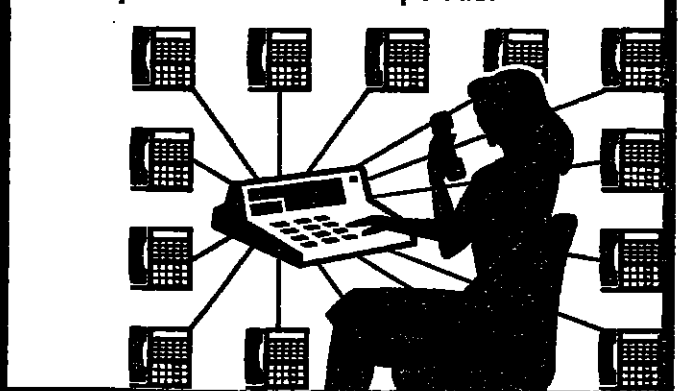
The true fax — NEFAX, a facsimile machine that sends text and graphics over the phone lines in seconds, and fits on your desk next to the phone!



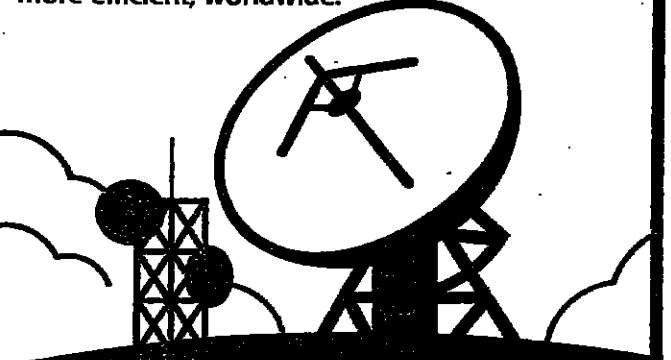
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Beneath the Atlantic, the relentless search for Soviet submarines goes on. The slightest sound can give away an enemy position. But, Michael Evans reports, this cat-and-mouse war game has turned into a costly battle of technology.

Hunter submarines are on the move. They are the most advanced and most expensive weapons in the world. They are the most elusive and most difficult to track. They are the most deadly and most dangerous. They are the most powerful and most formidable. They are the most mysterious and most enigmatic. They are the most elusive and most difficult to track. They are the most deadly and most dangerous. They are the most powerful and most formidable. They are the most mysterious and most enigmatic.

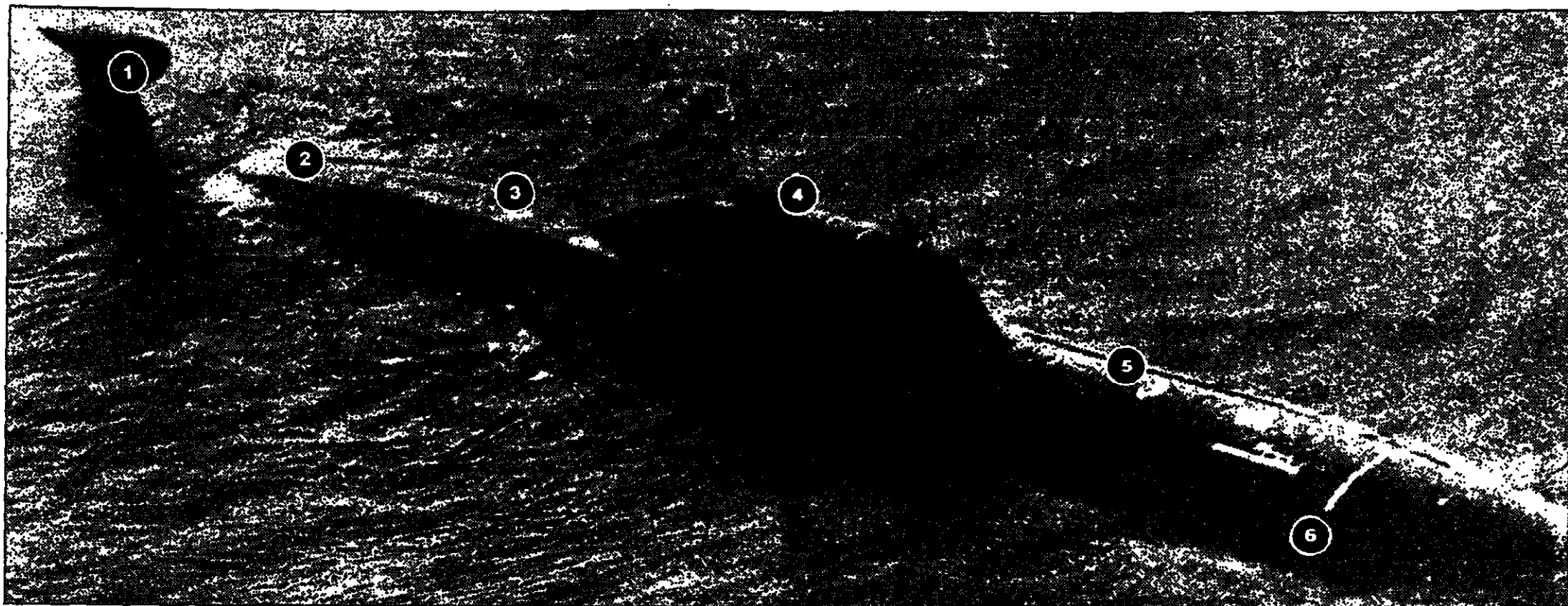
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SPECTRUM

Run silent, run deep. . .

Beneath the Atlantic, the relentless search for Soviet submarines goes on. The slightest sound can give away an enemy position. But, as Michael Evans reports, this cat-and-mouse war game has turned into a costly battle of technology

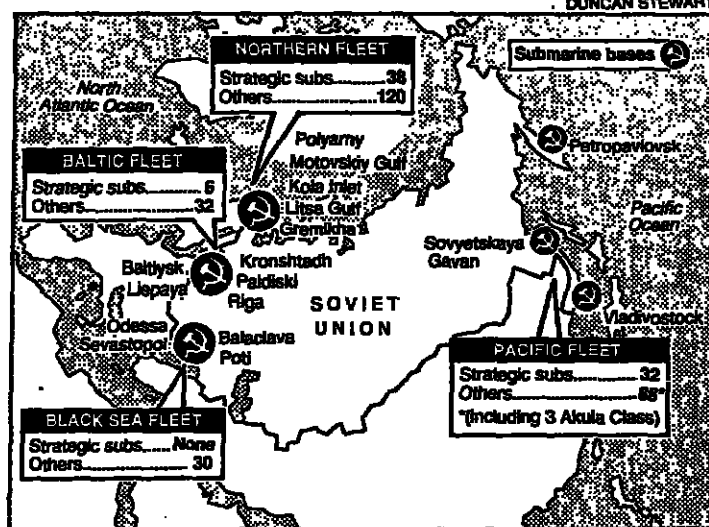


THE SOVIET NAVY'S AKULA CLASS SUBMARINE

- 1 Pod mounted on the rudder which could either contain towed sonar microphones or a small auxiliary water-jet propulsion system for extra-quiet slow-speed movement
2 Titanium-alloy hull 3 Two pressurized water nuclear reactors
4 Control room/attack centre 5 Noise-reducing tiles
6 Weapons compartment and torpedo tubes (carries SS-N-21 cruise missiles)



Chernavin: New horizons



Hundreds of feet beneath the grey waters of the Atlantic, in the cramped metal tube of a Royal Navy hunter-killer submarine, the sonar operators, their ears finely tuned to the multitude of sounds in the ocean environment, wait patiently for the faint whirs and clangs that will betray a Soviet underwater presence. Up above, surface ships drag sonar microphones through the waves while maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters criss-cross the ocean with sophisticated magnetic detection devices.

Days can go by with nothing coming through the headphones but the blowing of whales and the clicking of shrimps. But the cat-and-mouse game never stops. The search for Soviet submarines is a relentless business, often unrewarding and frequently frustrated by the sheer size and natural background noise of the oceans in which they hide.

The quarry also use elaborate acoustic counter measures to deceive the hunters. It has never been an easy task, even with the older, noisier Soviet attack "hunter-killer" submarines, which the sonar operators can more often pick up, identify by their noise "signature" and track until they disappear once again into the gloomy depths. But the new generation of Soviet submarines is in a different category.

Besides being a test of nerves and stamina, the submarine warfare game involves one of the greatest technological battles ever waged between the Soviet Union and the United States. Billions of roubles and dollars are being spent as the Russians try desperately to close the technological gap with the West and produce quieter submarines and better detection equipment, while the Americans pour money into research to keep ahead.

A secret US report which was,

surprisingly, released last week by the Pentagon made an extraordinary inference which must have rung alarm bells inside the Kremlin. Rear-Admiral William Studeman, director of US naval intelligence, confidently stated in evidence to a closed session of the US House armed services committee that Russian Yankee Class ballistic missile submarines had been redeployed from their stations off the American coast to new positions in European waters. Did this mean that part of the Soviet Union's hidden underwater nuclear deterrent had been comprehensively traced, tracked and located by the Americans?

The truthful answer to the question posed by Admiral Studeman's revelation is that the Americans may have picked up bits of intelligence over a period of time to indicate a change in submarine movements, especially as the Yankee Class submarines are old and therefore comparatively noisy. But they could not possibly be sure on a day-to-day basis where all the Soviet Yankee strategic missile subs — which they nickname "boomers" — are located. If they could, the Soviet submarine deterrent would be no deterrent at all. The boomers, after all, do not have to charge aggressively around the ocean creating noise, like their hunter-killer sisters, searching for enemy submarines. Once on patrol, loaded with long-range nuclear missiles, these massive vessels — such as the new Soviet Typhoon Class subs, which are the biggest in the world, as long as two football pitches — move as slowly as possible to avoid making any noise at all.

The superpowers' underwater arms race is all about one thing: the ability to move silently. Today the Russians are deploying submarines which, compared with their predecessors, are so quiet that they have dramatically transformed the whole underwater eavesdropping game.

There are three main factors behind their breakthrough: first, the Walker family of spies, headed by former US Navy radio expert John Walker, over a long period sold to the Russians thousands of highly classified documents which gave away all the United States' secret methods of detecting Soviet submarines. Second, the Russians have received vital computer-controlled steel-milling machinery under an illegal export deal involving Toshiba of Japan and Kongsberg of Norway, which helped them to make smoother, more precise, and hence quieter propeller blades. Third, thanks to the initiative of the new Soviet navy chief, Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, the Russians in recent years have spent much of their research effort in developing new ways to cut down the noise made by high-speed turbines, reactor

coolant pumps, vibrating pipes, and other bits of machinery, as well as designing smoother, more streamlined hulls and fins.

The Soviet Union is now making faster strides in silencing its submarines than the West is making in designing systems to detect them. There are even fears that the Russians may have developed a special new type of propulsion system based on a super-quiet water jet instead of a propeller.

Some experts believe the new Akula (Shark) Class submarine may have a small auxiliary water jet system for use at slow speeds. In their public statements, the Americans remain bullish about the gap that still remains between the capabilities of both sides.

A spokesman for the US Navy in Washington, Lieutenant Ken Ross, comments: "The Soviet submarines are harder to detect, but we still feel we're the kingpins. The new Akula Class is their number one submarine, but it's still inferior to the first of our Los Angeles Class that went to sea 10 years ago."

The Akula attack submarine, however, is a classic example of the way the Russians have significantly improved their technology. Its double hull, made out of titanium alloy to reduce the vessel's magnetic field, is smooth and coated in tiles made of a rubber compound to absorb echo and reduce noise. The first example was launched in 1984, and there are still only three, all deployed with the Pacific Fleet. But if they prove successful, the Russians will undoubtedly mass-

produce them for deployment in other parts of the globe. No doubt these would include the waters off the Clyde in Scotland, where they would try to track Britain's Polaris ballistic missile submarines as they leave their Faslane base for patrol duties.

The Royal Navy's latest nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine is the Trafalgar Class, which is reckoned to be one of the quietest in the world. But the US Navy, to counter the Soviet advances, is planning next year, subject to Presidential approval, to start building a submarine called the Seawolf, the first of which will cost \$1.5 billion. The Americans claim it will be 300 per cent more efficient than the latest Los Angeles Class. "It will be quieter, faster, drive deeper and carry twice as many weapons," Lt Ross says.

The rapid improvement in Soviet submarines is seen as such a major threat that the Americans are also spending huge sums on researching new methods of detection, involving not passive sonar, where the operators listen for the noise of an approaching submarine, but a return to active sonar, sending out pulses into the ocean which bounce off targets and come back, and also non-acoustic systems.

The US Navy spokesman says: "Passive sonar is subject to the law of physics which you can't control. As subs get quieter and quieter, their signature becomes lost in the ambient noise of the ocean environment. That's when they could become invisible. I don't think that will happen, but we're still having to look at other ways of detecting. The problem with active sonar is how active can you be without giving away where you are?"

Satellites could play a part in non-acoustic submarine searching by tracing thermal "scars" in the ocean and the disturbance of internal waves, but detection of

submerged submarines from outer space is a long way off. Today, US signals intelligence (SIGINT) satellites pick up the communications activity that goes on prior to a Soviet submarine slipping out of its berth, and reconnaissance satellites photograph subs as they cruise on the surface between their moorings and deep water before diving. That information is logged at the US Navy Operational Intelligence Centre outside Washington.

Crucial intelligence information is also gleaned from the US SOSUS (Sound Surveillance System) network of seabed listening hydrophones attached to hundreds of miles of cables.

For example, the Americans are believed to have placed SOSUS cables across the approaches to Polyarny, one of the major Soviet submarine bases, north of Murmansk on the Kola Peninsula.

Captain Richard Sharpe, who once commanded the Royal Navy's submarine fleet and is now the new editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, comments: "One of the problems is that the passive sonar capability has been grotesquely exaggerated. On some days, you can detect a moving submarine because you are looking in the right direction and the acoustic path is a good one. On other days, you can't because there are too many acoustic barriers."

"It's true that the Russians have produced quieter submarines more quickly than expected but that does not mean that they also have a greater capability of detecting submarines. Neither side is very good at detecting the other. The SSBNs [ballistic missile-carrying nuclear submarines] in the West are virtually undetectable. As for the Soviet SSBNs, detection may be made on an occasional basis. On any one day, though, no one in the West can say where they all are."

Why the Greens are growing

The green consumer is on the march and John Elkington tells two tales in illustration. The first is of the London University cleaner who, struck by a sudden shaft of guilt, abandons her ozone-destroying aerosol furniture shine in mid-spray to fetch wax polish and a duster. The second is the humane rat-trap. Does such a thing exist? Could such a thing exist?

There is evidently a parable here, a point of some metaphysical substance. At his home in riverside Barnes, south-west London, Elkington ponders it at length. Elkington has probably done more than anyone in Britain to get industry and environmentalists to live happily together, and this week sees the culmination of one of his most-cherished projects.

Green Pages, to be launched on Friday, is a directory of opportunities in the multi-million pound environment business. Modelled on British Telecom's yellow version, it

Caring for the environment is big business and a new directory shows firms how to cash in

will preach the message that there's money in greenery. Nine thousand firms operate in just one sector of the market — pollution control technology.

Two million Europeans work in the expanding environmental field. The figures are impressive and Elkington has most of them at his fingertips. That much is good news for entrepreneurs. But there is a reverse side to the coin. Environmentalists are increasingly big spenders. Many of them are the baby-boomers of the 60s, the product of the



decade which spawned the environmental revolution, and they are now finding themselves in their thirties and forties, well advanced in the corridors of power and floating on a tide of disposable income. They have power in their jobs and in their pockets and they want to know how to use it.

That power has been tellingly demonstrated this year. The mere threat by Friends of the Earth to boycott aerosol sprays containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), blamed for the progressive destruction of the protective ozone layer, helped to galvanise manufacturers like ICI, Beecham and Colgate-Palmolive into announcing the phasing out of aerosols and a search for alternatives. This month, *FOE* published its *Good Wood Guide*, blacklisting firms selling furniture which it claims is produced by the destruction of the tropical rainforest: the list includes Harrods, Selfridges, Habitat, Heals, B & Q, Texas

Homecare, House of Fraser, John Lewis and Debenhams. Last month, Greenpeace began its boycott of Bird's Eye and Tesco for buying their fish from Icelandic whalers. Next week sees the launch of the Merlin Ecology Fund, billed as the first avowedly green unit trust.

And there is more to come. This September will see Britain's first green consumer week, to coincide with the publication of *The Green Consumer Guide*, another of Elkington's projects, which will act as an environmentalist's *Which?* detailing the best buys in food, DIY, consumer goods, cars — even holidays.

Why this sudden upsurge of activity? Jonathan Porritt, director of Friends of the Earth, is frank about one reason. Environmental groups, he says, have given up trying to talk to a government "which cannot see the light and is never going to be able to see it", and are using the economic weapon to outflank it. But Elkington, founder of Environmental Data Services, which for a decade has helped industry keep abreast of

environmentalism, believes it has been brewing for years.

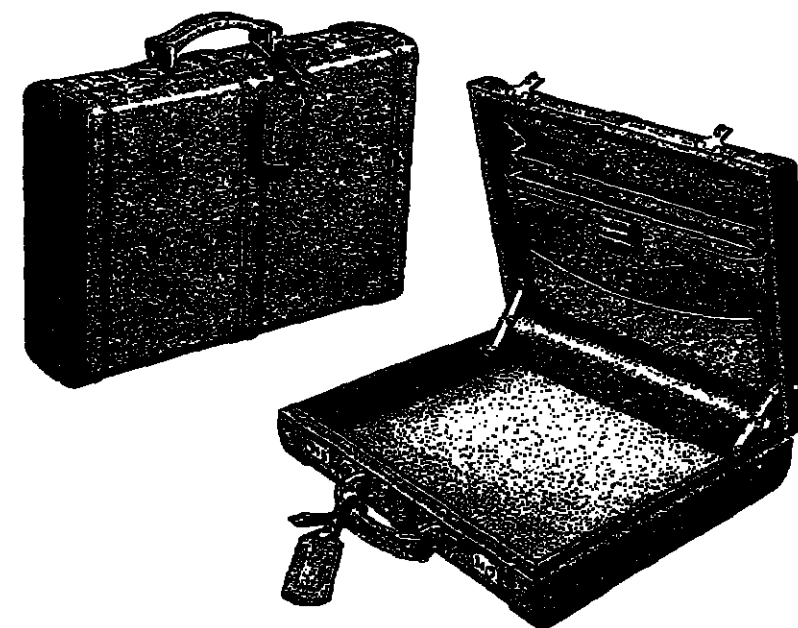
One reason, undeniably, is that a healthy green profile is a highly marketable asset: a fact not only demonstrated by the enormous success of the cruelty-free cosmetics sold by the Body Shop, whose founder Anita Roddick contributes to the *Green Pages*, but by the keen competition among manufacturers to purvey additive-free products. Strategic studies by Shell have reached similar conclusions. Elkington also cites the example of BP, which this year became the first British firm to gain the gold medal for corporate achievement awarded by the New York World Environment Centre. Potential protesters actually trust BP more because of its good environmental reputation, he believes. But there is also research indicating that the market for green products is far greater than the three million-plus figure usually cited as the total number of UK environmentalists.

There remains, however, the humane rat-trap, which is to say that certain values may ultimately prove irreconcilable. Back at Friends of the Earth, Porritt accuses companies like Shell and ICI of hypocrisy and "greenspeak" — preaching environmentalism, "buying up" environmental groups but still freely dispensing poisonous chemicals.

"We are all consumers and it is better to be good consumers than bad consumers," he says. "But consumerism is not a neutral value. The movement is in moral jeopardy unless it states quite categorically that it is seeking to reduce dramatically the volume of consumption and the prevailing ethos of consumerism."

David Nicholson-Lord

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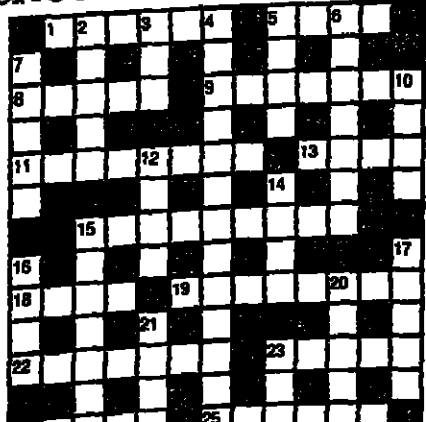
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Correction

The port of Faw is in Iraq, not Iran as stated (Spectrum, February 22). It has been occupied by Iran since 1987.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has given a broad hint that last Tuesday's Budget will be his last. His departure would be bad news for the British economy. He has combined a rare understanding of the nation's finances with unimpeachable ideological credentials. This has enabled him to match tactical flexibility with seeing the wood from the trees.

His departure would, however, invite an instructive comparison between the conduct of economic policy in Britain and the United States over the past eight years. President Reagan's successor in 1989 will have to grapple with the contradictions of Reaganomics. Mr Lawson's successor could be confident in economic management but would need to be wary of the social implications.

During the Eighties, US and British economic policy has had the same strategic objectives: to conquer inflation and encourage job-creation by establishing ground-rules for sustainable non-inflationary growth. The common purpose was to promote incentives for private enterprise, unlock government-imposed barriers to competitiveness and productivity, cut back the public sector and balance the budget.

Mr Reagan's tactics were to cut taxes in the hope of stimulating incentives and production (the supply side), while relying on the independent Federal Reserve Board to eliminate inflationary expectations by maintaining strict control of the money supply. This was the classic monetarist strategy promoted by Professor Milton Friedman.

It succeeded remarkably well in promoting growth and cutting unemployment in the United States to historically low levels — while unemployment in Britain reached socially disastrous proportions. But, given higher US public spending on defence, the idea that cutting tax rates would balance the Federal budget proved no more than a charlatan's dream. The US budget deficit has reached an unprecedented size and produced an equally unprecedented imbalance between imports and exports. If ever there was a case of unsustainable economic growth, this was it.

The British experience is the obverse. Before Mr Reagan came to office, Sir Geoffrey Howe tried a brief and half-hearted experiment in supply-side monetarism in his misnamed 1979 Budget, which cut income taxes but increased spending taxes, raising nominal inflation and destroying the credibility of his novel anti-inflationary monetary policy.

Thereafter, in the consistently pursued medium-term financial strategy, devised in 1980-81 by Mr Nigel Lawson when he was Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the United Kingdom adopted a different priority. Inflation, more serious here, was to be cured

principally by putting public finances on a sound footing, reinforcing the discipline of high interest rates on the private sector.

This has undoubtedly worked — partly thanks to the privatization programme but principally by forcing the private sector to change its culture through a prolonged recession. This forced it to compete in domestic and international markets. But it has been a painful process, especially compared to the US experience. The prize of low interest rates has never been realized.

In any case, Mr Reagan's ideas would not have been practical in Britain. With the benefit of hindsight, Reaganomics might have been financially viable in Britain, given the oil-induced strength of the currency in 1979-80. But the financial markets were no more prepared for this at the time than the new Conservative government. Nor was the stagnant, inflexible British economy, consumed by managerial and union assent to restrictive practices and antediluvian attitudes, capable of responding to a supply-side boost.

The equation is different today. Whatever the social caveats, Mr Lawson's Budget has provided the incentives to push the economic recovery of the last six years into a new phase at a crucial time. The contrast with the United States is striking. President Reagan's successor faces only painful adjustments. Britain's Chancellor faces new challenges with an economy fit and ready to solve its remaining problems, if only the will and effort is there.

Mr Lawson has the chance to preside over an economic miracle comparable to that achieved by Dr Ludwig Erhard in postwar Germany. Despite flattering comments from abroad, that is not yet in the bag. Britain's Chancellor has to manage the economy in a way that will match social progress to financial achievements.

There is much to be done. Few will carp if Mr Lawson succumbs to the political frustrations that have limited the tax reforms he would want to have made and the international economic policies he would have wanted to pursue. Phased changes in income tax reliefs for pensions and house purchase would alone have enabled him to bring the basic rate of income tax far below the new target of 20 per cent. Britain has forsworn financial leadership in a more integrated European Economic Community.

In both areas, Mr Lawson has been overruled. There is, however, much to be said for patience in a politician with vision and clout. Dr Erhard's reputation fell victim to his own pride. Mr Lawson may have other reasons for seeking a change. He should not quit the chase easily when the superiority of Lawsonomics over Reaganomics can be shown to the benefit of all but has yet to be proved.

THE AFGHAN EQUATION

The Geneva talks on Afghanistan, which carried so many hopes when they opened two weeks ago, have reached an impasse. March 15, the deadline set by Moscow for agreement if the Soviet troops were to begin their withdrawal in mid-May, has come and gone. Pakistan insists that arrangements for an interim government must be made as a condition of agreement; the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul says transitional arrangements are an internal Afghan matter and none of Pakistan's business.

In the background are Moscow and Washington, each insisting that the other be first to halt military assistance to its clients. Also in the background are the seven Mujahidin groups insisting, through their new leader, Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, that no agreement can be signed until an interim government involving their representatives is guaranteed and warning of the strife that would follow any Soviet withdrawal not underpinned by a formal UN-sponsored agreement.

Unless this week's meetings between the US Secretary of State and the Soviet Foreign Minister make unexpected progress, this looks increasingly the most probable outcome. Last week Moscow played down the significance of the March 15 deadline and said Soviet troops would be withdrawn with or without an agreement. While disproving the theory that Moscow had banked on failure at Geneva with a view to keeping its troops in Afghanistan, the Soviet statement also undermined the truth — unpalatable to both parties at the talks — that the more intent Moscow is on withdrawal, the less relevant their efforts to reach agreement.

Moscow would doubtless prefer to begin its withdrawal with an agreement in place. This would lend dignity to the proceedings and allow the withdrawal to be seen as a controlled military exercise rather than ignominious flight. It might also improve the survival prospects of the present Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, help to circumscribe the influence of any Mujahidin participation in government and reduce the disillusionment among other Soviet clients when they contemplate the conduct of their patron in Afghanistan.

Yet Mr Gorbachev now appears ready to

forego a formal agreement for the sake of bringing Soviet troops home. Whether his reasons are domestic (growing disenchantment with the war and the cost involved) or foreign political (concern to improve relations with the West and China), he seems to have decided that leaving without an agreement is better than staying in the hope of obtaining one.

Pakistan and the Mujahidin now need an agreement more than Moscow does. Both have before them the prospect of continued civil war in Afghanistan, a war in which their interests may rapidly diverge if the Soviet withdrawal destabilizes the Kabul government. They also fear that world interest in their case will lessen once the Soviet withdrawal starts. For Pakistan there is the added political and economic problem of the Afghan refugees.

Dr Najib, too, has an interest in agreement at Geneva if, as he may hope, it could help his government survive without overt Soviet military backing. This common interest is probably why the talks in Geneva have not yet collapsed completely. But what the parties to the talks appear not yet to recognize fully is that the purpose of the talks has changed. They are now less about getting the Russians out of Kabul and more about arrangements for a post-occupation Afghanistan.

This change in emphasis means that the West's priorities must also change. Once the Soviet withdrawal begins, vigilance must be exercised to ensure that Moscow does not obtain by stealth what it has been prevented from obtaining by armed force. The neutrality promised by Moscow and the free elections offered by Kabul should mean precisely that. Afghanistan should not have to exchange military dependence on Moscow for political and economic dependence.

As the date for withdrawal approaches, Pakistan and the Mujahidin will voice their understandable misgivings with increased urgency. But the volume of complaints must not be allowed to drown the jubilation. A Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan is a vindication of Western pressure over the past eight years and a signal victory. That single and simplest point must not be lost sight of in the months and years to come.

Stamp of religion

From Mr and Mrs George Chowdhary-Best
Sir, Many will have been disappointed to read (report, March 13) Bishop Ronald Gordon's reply on the Archbishop of Canterbury's behalf, to the British Humanist Association's letter. "Christians would want to affirm that Jesus was alive on appropriate occasions" forsooth! Even the communists are allowing them to do that.

The "imposition of a postmark by a public monopoly" may not be an "affirmation of faith" (though if it is not that it is difficult to know what else "affirmation" means), but it is certainly an assertion of faith passed on by that public monopoly and as such a timely reminder of what many of us in the Established Church still believe in.

The Bishop's reply was shameful. Yours faithfully,
G. CHOWDHARY-BEST,
E. CHOWDHARY-BEST,
27 Walpole Street, SW3.
March 12.

Top earners

From Mr Kenneth A. Cammack
Sir, Your article (March 16) on Britain's top earners, by Andrew Moger, vividly illustrates the immediate benefits they will receive from Mr Lawson's income-tax reforms with special reference to Sir Ralph Halpin (salary increased by £260,000) and Mr Christopher Heath (salary increased by nearly £500,000).

My understanding of such astronomical salaries in excess of say £1 million was that under the existing tax system they are meant to shield these talented people

from the higher tax bands. Surely, therefore, they are about to receive a double compensation and in principle their salaries could be reduced now that a new UK income-tax system has been designed to be more fair to our top bankers and industrialists.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH A. CAMMACK,
8 Folly Close,
Old Blandford Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Wrong animal

From Mr A. J. Maddock
Sir, Our normally very efficient school office staff recently prepared a routine circular to parents. In the heading alongside my name was my designation: Headmaster. Yours faithfully,
ALAN MADDOCK, Headmaster,
Little Hadham,
Ware, Hertfordshire.

Future role of county councils

From the Chairman of Surrey County Council
Sir, The Government's radical approach to local government is surely not to be clouded by a profitless exercise in restructuring county and district councils (report, March 15).

Fundamental changes about to reach the statute book must be encouraged to alter attitudes throughout local government. Further introduction of competition will change the role of all councils from direct provider to one of prudent procurer of services. The Education Reform Bill and proposals to move social housing to housing associations both radically change the exclusive role of all authorities.

These changes should be encouraged without the distraction of restructuring being on the agenda.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS ROBERTSON,
Chairman,
Surrey County Council,
County Hall,
Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey.
March 15.

From the Chairman of the Executive Council, Association of County Councils

Sir, The Times has suggested that the abolition or dismemberment of county councils looks certain if the Prime Minister is returned for a fourth term. We were told "planning for this is at a preliminary stage".

This association has been assured, both formally and informally, by ministers that further structural change of local government is not on the Government's agenda. Indeed, this was formally confirmed to us by the responsible department on the day your report was published.

As recently as February 2, Mr Chope, the junior environment minister, explained the reasons for Government thinking to a conference at the Adam Smith Institute. What matters, he said, is to try to make the markets work within local government, trying to make local councils think about concentrating on their core responsibilities rather than further meddling with the structure of local government.

That is, of course, as one might expect. County councils, whatever their political stance, will comply with the law of the land and will, therefore, have a huge job to do to ensure the continuance of vital public services within the new framework now being laid down.

There can be no doubt, from the Government's own point of view I would have thought, of the importance of avoiding more structural change and county elected members, their employees, and indeed their customers are all entitled to rely on the assurances given. Yours faithfully,
JOHN ALLISON, Chairman,
Executive Council,
Association of County Councils,
Eaton House,
66A Eaton Square, SW1.
March 15.

From Mrs Rosalind K. Wingrove
Sir, If the writing is on the wall for county councils the general public in the shire counties would do well to read the small print very carefully.

The new Bucharest

From Mr Mark Almond
Sir, Having returned from a visit to Bucharest the day after you published Mr Sherban Cautucuzino's letter (February 27) about the fate of the churches of Romania's capital, may I add a few remarks?

The massive construction projects within the city are continuing, but it seems that the Romanian Government is abiding by its recent promise not to destroy any more churches. However, even though churches in the path of the redevelopments are being shunted aside on vast steel contraptions, all the non-steel buildings associated with such a church still fall prey to the bulldozers — along with all the homes, shops and trees in the parish.

Official exhibitions and posters make clear that what is happening in Bucharest is only part of a

After 16 years as a district councillor and 11 on the county council I have sufficient experience to conclude that the three-tier system at present enjoyed in the shires gives the man in the village street the best chance to influence decisions made which affect his environment, his children's education, and the other services covered by parish, district and county.

Perhaps if a similar three-tier system had operated in our large cities in the recent past we might not be facing the litter-strewn, decaying, inner-city areas and the desperation in the faces of some who have to live in them.

How can an elected councillor, particularly if he/she is in full-time employment, adequately represent or even be aware of the concerns and needs of many, many thousands of electors on such basic subjects as housing and planning?

It would take more than the arguments presented so far by the Association of District Councils to convince me that one authority in each area could adequately provide, supervise and control all the services we currently receive without massive extra spending, disguised though it may be.

The counties would lose their voice in discussion with central government and it would be almost impossible for a mass of small, local councils to exert a united pressure for reform. Convince me!

Yours sincerely,
ROSALIND K. WINGROVE,
Chairman,
South Bucks District Council,
Waldor House,
Langley Park Road,
Iver,
Buckinghamshire.
March 15.

From Dr Peter Phillips
Sir, The report by David Walker on the possible abolition or dismemberment of county councils identifies Buckinghamshire as a "hotbed of paternalism". While such a description may have had some validity in the past it is certainly not appropriate for the current administration.

Buckinghamshire contains the fastest growing (and most successful) area in the country, Milton Keynes.

Despite yet another reduction in its block grant, entitlement from central Government, the county council has limited the rate rise for 1988-89 to 9.2 per cent, below its 1987 level of pay, and price inflation of 10 per cent and well below the average for shire counties.

This has been based on a business-like approach to the council's affairs. Indeed, the local CBI and chambers of commerce and industry have recently congratulated the county council on its "continuing efforts to improve its overall efficiency".

Yours faithfully,
PETER PHILLIPS, Chairman,
Policy and Resources Committee,
Buckinghamshire County Council,
Judges Lodgings,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.
March 16.

nation-wide destruction of the old cities of Romania and their reconstruction "in the spirit of the epoch of Nicolae Ceausescu". It also seems to be the Government's policy to compensate the inhabitants of each of Romania's thousands of villages into single tower-blocks.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's eccumenical visit to the Orthodox Patriarch in 1982 is still trumpeted in official publications justifying the fate of Bucharest's churches as an example of the Romanian Church's international standing and by extension of foreign approval for what is happening. Could not Dr Runcie use his influence with the Patriarch to protest against the destruction of parishes and ancient communities?

Yours truly,
MARK ALMOND,
Wolfson College,
Oxford.
March 2.

Child witnesses

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen
Sir, I share the concern of Mrs Patricia May (March 8) at the Exeter Crown Court ruling that the evidence of two child witnesses was inadmissible because they did not appear to understand the meaning of the Bible.

In addition to the points she makes I would draw attention to section 4 (2) of the Oaths Act 1978, which provides:

Where an oath has been duly administered and taken, the fact that the person to whom it was administered had, at the time of taking it, no religious belief, shall not for any purpose affect the validity of the oath.

Since religious belief has been thus declared by statute to be immaterial in this context, and the Oaths Act 1888, in providing for affirmation in lieu of the oath, had already rendered such belief unnecessary, why should a lack of understanding of the meaning of the Bible — whatever indeed that expression itself may mean — have prevented the children from giving sworn evidence?

I am, etc.
G. ELLENBOGEN,
9 Montague Square, W1.
March 14.

Fruitful church link with business

From the Vicar of Uxbridge
Sir, John Young's account (March 10) of the destruction of our old cities and market towns by new buildings reminds us of something that is not new. The ancient church of St Margaret in the old market town of Uxbridge was very much hidden from the High Street by the building of the Market House in 1789, and the north-west corner of the church was bevelled off in 1810 in order to widen the street.

Like the towns mentioned by John Young the skyline of Uxbridge has been transformed by large new office buildings, representing some of the biggest companies in the country. The important question for the Church is how we make use of our ancient buildings and community presence in the towns that have changed so much.

Here in Uxbridge we have recently commissioned a market research company to provide us with an accurate picture of the movements of people working in the new companies as well as shoppers and residents. The working population that commutes into Uxbridge now equals half the 16,000 people who live here. This raises questions about style of ministry and a new member of staff has been appointed to develop a town-centre ministry based on the ancient church that is itself being re-ordered for new styles of worship and ministry.

Contact with the national and multinational companies that now abound in our small town has shown that their leaders are very interested in our activities and also have a concern that an ancient town does not lose its heart and soul. This month the Bishop of Willesden is to chair a meeting between these new commercial leaders and ordained and lay leaders of the local church.

Our hope for the future is to provide not only an oasis of quiet, prayer and worship at the heart of a busy town, but also an exciting new ministry involving talks, interviews, concerts, using as many well-known personalities as possible. We hope that we shall provide a centre of community, learning, culture and interchange that can enrich all those who use our town.

The advent of new buildings is a fact of life: we are but one church that are trying to see that as an exciting challenge rather than a monstrous threat.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. COLCLOUGH,
Uxbridge Vicarage,
72 Harefield Road,
Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Furthermore the trustees have no wish whatever to sell any of the Turner Bequest, and have in fact already told the minister that they are not in favour of any de-acquisitioning clause in the proposed legislation. It should also be remembered that the legislation has yet to be drafted, and we hope that it will in any case specifically exclude such gifts as the Turner Bequest.

Yours etc.
RICHARD ROGERS, Chairman,
Board of Trustees,
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1.
March 15.

Mortgage benefit

From the Director General of the Building Societies Association
Sir, The Director, Dr MacPherson, and Mr Svenson of the Benefits Research Unit of the University of Nottingham should have done a little more research before writing to you on "Erosion of Benefits" (March 15).

Contrary to what they say, mortgage interest assistance (through supplementary benefit) has not been halved since 1986. Rather, benefit will meet half of the interest for the first 16 weeks of any claim, and thereafter the whole of interest, including interest on capitalized interest for the first 16 weeks.

The cut is about 10 per cent of the total cost of supplementary benefit to meet mortgage interest. The criticism that can be made of the Government on this point is that for a minimal saving it has further complicated an already complicated area.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BOLEAT,
Director General,
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1.
March 15.

Drugs patents

From the Director of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Sir, Following the debate on clause 266 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Bill in the House of Lords on March 10, it would appear that the Government now intends to honour its commitment to repeal the patent licence-of-right provisions for all pharmaceutical products.

The next vital step is for the patent laws to be revised to restore the 12 years, on average, of patent protection "lost" because of the time taken to complete rigorous safety tests and registration procedures.

Our main international competitors, the United States and Japan, have already taken steps to restore some of the "lost" years. Europe must do the same if it is to retain its share of the world pharmaceutical market. Yours faithfully,
JOHN P. GRIFFIN, Director,
The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry,
12 Whitehall, SW1.
March 15.

Flat out

From Mrs Mary Wood
Sir, I learn from University news (March 8) that a grant has been made by the Medical Research Council for "longitudinal studies of cognitive changes in old age". As one who has recently entered into her three score and tenth year I am rather concerned to know what this means. Could someone please translate?

Yours in apprehension,
MARY WOOD,
1 Karen Court,
Dilwyn,
Hereford.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 21, 1865

Wilmington, defended by Fort Fisher, was the last important port held by the Confederates. On January 15, naval and land attack under General A. H. Terry stormed the fort, forcing the city's evacuation. Our Special Correspondent with the forces in the South was Francis Lawley

THE CONFEDERATE STATES

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Wilmington, North Carolina, Jan 31
I desire to revert to the recent capture by the Federates of Fort Fisher — an event which possesses surpassing interest for England, and in regard to which the minutest details seem not undesirable.

About 4.30 on the morning of Sunday, the 15th, the first of General Hagood's regiments, the 21st, was landed at Battery Buchanan, and was immediately marched up to Fort Fisher. As the attacking column drew near to the fort a portion of the fleet moved in single file ahead of the skirmish line, and poured in a heavy fire, thus enfilading the entire land force and covering the advance of the skirmishers. The remainder of the fleet, occupying its original position, never ceased to throw its murderous missiles into every portion of the work, until most of the garrison, worn down by sleeplessness, hunger and the strain of a bombardment ceaselessly sustained for more than 60 hours, slunk within the homoprophs, mastered by a fire which filled the whole sky with projectiles, and rent the air with one loud unintermitted roar in comparison with which the thunder of the field artillery of Sordano or Lepanto must have sounded faint and insignificant indeed.

Suddenly a shrill steam whistle to be heard, and in an instant every gun is hushed. Upon the left of the Federal lines a large body of Marines dashes swiftly out of the smoke, and advancing along the beach close down to the sea strikes boldly at the sea face of the fort, and gains its outer palisades. Quickly drawing his men out of the homoprophs, General Whiting throws them upon the assailants, and after a short and bloody struggle drives them headlong back along the beach. But while the attention of the garrison is engaged in repelling the attack on the extreme left of the Federal line a body of General Terry's soldiers dashes forward along the river bank on the Federal right, and before their advance is noticed they occupy the saltpore which enters the fort from the direction of Colonel Lamb's house. Not until General Whiting, flushed with the exertion of his hand-to-hand combat with the Marines, saw his enemy's flag mounted upon the third traverse of the land face, did he recognize his danger. In vain, with desperate courage did he call upon his men to follow him, and rush forward to tear down the hated ensign with his own hand. In vain did Colonel Lamb second his leader's efforts with conspicuous gallantry. In a few minutes both officers are carried bleeding to the rear; all attack on the part of the garrison ceases; the Federals hold the saltpore into which they have glided, and, although their work of conquest is not completed until 10 o'clock at night, at 3 p.m. the fort has virtually ceased to be the property of the Confederates.

Those who, after reading this narrative, talk sneeringly of the feebleness of the resistance offered by the defenders of Fort Fisher have probably little experience of the tremendous strain to which both body and mind are subjected when a man is exposed for 60 or 70 hours, without the respite of a moment, to such a fearful bombardment as was hurled into Fort Fisher.

THE ARTS

Comedy of subtle manners

On Saturday the latest Comic Strip offering, *Didn't You Kill My Brother?* (Channel 4), offered a successful example of comic underplaying.

Alexei Sayle, followed his fine performance as the compromised writer in the last Comic Strip offering, the cleverly wrought *The Strike*, with another example of how this once raucously loud stand-up comic is developing into a very subtle portrayal of gentle characters. This development was particularly obvious in this production because Sayle played two criminal Kray-like twins — one reformed by his

TELEVISION

428 educational qualifications gained in prison, the other still violently brutal in his manner. *Didn't You Kill My Brother?*, which Sayle wrote with Pauline Melville and David Stafford, was not quite so brilliant in its pastiche as *The Strike* but it had some very funny scenes and even the sub-Brechtian songs and narration worked well.

"Give us an experiment/In the art of merriment/Into the throw/Chuck who doesn't crowd/The Yeoman of the Guard (BBC2), made specially for television, proved again that, Jonathan Miller notwithstanding, Gilbert and Sullivan's art of merriment normally comes to us without too much experiment. It offered few surprises — the Beefeaters had not been turned by directorial whim into a vegetarian militia. There was one shock, though: while the rest of the cast sounded at least as British as a bulldog, Jack Point, the "Man of Jollity" who was meant to provide the merriment before losing out in love, was played by Joel Grey, the celebrated American musical star.

Although Grey made us aware that money made the world go around with Teutonic vocal relish in *Cabaret*, his lacklustre weak-voiced Point certainly did not convince us that he had "jibe and j/k/e/And quip and crank/For jolly folk/And men of rank". It was as though he was afraid to give his part more character in case his American accent became too strong. Instead it remained quietly incongruous.

Meanwhile, the excellent *Hot Metal* (ITV) continued to give us delightful examples of the art of comic overplaying as *The Crucible* and *The Star* did battle in Central America over a knacker's yard horse.

Andrew Hislop

Dudley Moore duels with G&S on the West Coast . . . Plácido Domingo survives a duet on the East Coast

Moore goes Ko Ko

The Mikado
Wiltshire Theatre,
Los Angeles

Just as a reunion between George Harrison and Ringo Starr is redolent enough of The Beatles' great days to justify maximal interest, so Jonathan Miller and Dudley Moore are capable of inspiring mini transports of joy. Moore is essaying *Ko Ko* in Miller's ENO production of *The Mikado*, first seen at the Coliseum in 1986, and the descent of a film luminary on to a Los Angeles stage (the sumptuously restored art-deco Wiltshire Theatre) is, even if only for 10 days, drawing the town.

As well it should. In situating Gilbert and Sullivan's Titipu within the confines of a splendidly whitewashed 1920s seaside hotel (a breathtaking creation of mixed perspectives by Stefan Lazaridis), Miller has (ironically) restored the full Victorian flavour to the old chestnut. It was easy to forget, behind all those kimono and Japanese fans, that Gilbert had written a spot-on social satire predicated on the class differences which obtained in Victorian England.

With the removal of *Japanaiserie* and the cobwebs of 100 years of D'Oyley Carte stagecraft, the musical emerges with pristine clarity.

There is a dark rumour that the director has taken the early films of the Marx Brothers as his *urtext*. To the extent that he has, the parallels do not mesh. Katsisha, conspicuously patterned on Margaret Dumont, is "bloodthirsty" and overbearing, but Miss Dumont was always the essence of upper-class gentility, haughtily disdainful. Groucho's assault on her dignity.

Miller's production is funniest when Gilbert's topsyturvy logic is allowed to convey itself lucidly through his embellished text, and heavy-handed only when "clever" production jokes are being imposed.

Moore's *Ko Ko* draws heavily on the comic persona developed by the actor over a series of some dozen appalling films. Yet the audience is still delighted to see his diminutive frame shamble on to the stage, essaying a dandified variation of his Arthur character. Moore's musical gifts are efficient. His basic character concept is that *Ko Ko* is really a cockney attempting to be upper class. The message is received, but not with overwhelming comic results. Ultimately, the joy of the performance is just watching a clown from a completely different tradition manage to transform Savoy Opera high-jinks into revue comedy.

Of maintaining such an imposing authority while seated for most of the show behind a piano, O'Maonlai sang a precocious repertoire that combined complex references to traditional music styles — blues, folk, honky-tonk, gospel — with a striking dash of contemporary originality.

The consistent quality of spiritual depth which distinguished the material was either contained within an outward simplicity of structure — the R'n'B chant of "Feet On The Ground", the one-chord vamp of Nona Hendryx's "Seeline Woman" — or else flaunted in lengthy, wide-screen narratives. One such was "I'll Be Easier In The Morning", a song that aimed successfully for the epic high ground, and in so doing recalled the work of masters like Bruce Springsteen and Van Morrison.

O'Maonlai's towering presence eclipsed the rest of the band as characters, though without detracting unduly from a level of musicianship which would wipe the floor with most young popular music contenders. Dark name, but Hothouse Flowers is a group destined for success on a grand scale.

David Sinclair

ROCK

Hothouse Flowers
Astoria

Hothouse Flowers would be an unstoppable force even without the automatic cachet afforded to groups emerging from the thriving musical community in post-U2 Dublin, the new "Liffeybeat" scene, as it has helpfully been dubbed. In just two years the quintet has earned the early sobriquet "best unsigned band in the world" (*Rolling Stone*), released a debut single on U2's Mother label and, having been snapped up by London Records, recorded a first album due for imminent release.

For the time being though, Hothouse Flowers' constituency remains in Ireland, and it seemed as if every Irish expatriate rock fan in town had turned out to this, the group's fourth gig at a London venue. The band's performance was dominated by the charismatic vocalist and pianist, Liam O'Maonlai, and it is hard to think of another rock musician, short of Elton John and Billy Joel, who is capable

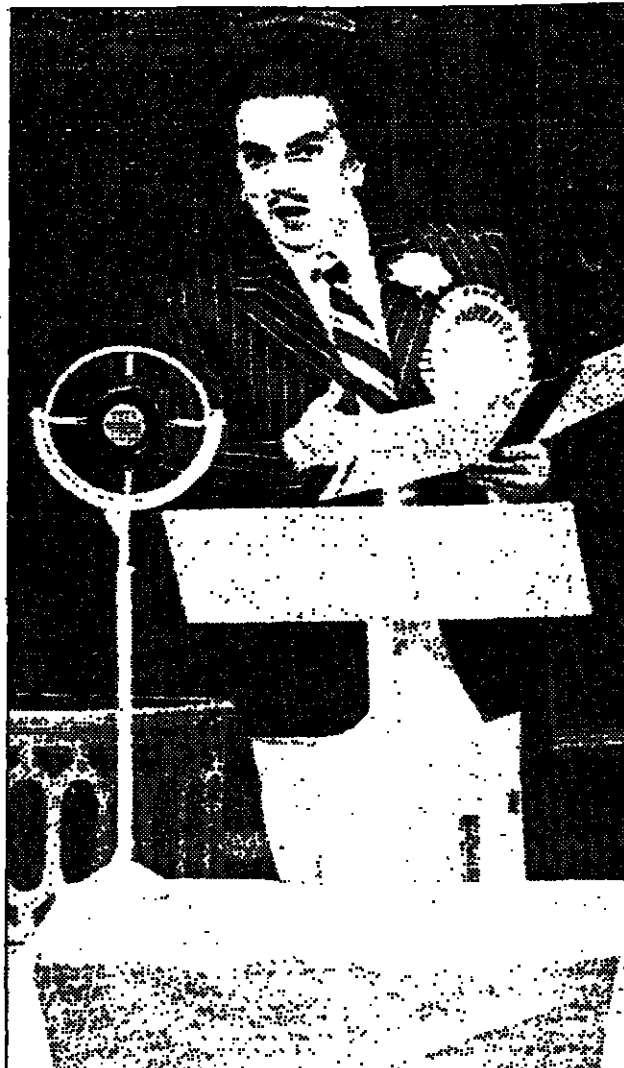
It is unfortunate that Donald Adams, the brilliant Savoyard veteran, is playing Pooh-Bah: every moment he is on stage makes one yearn for the blood-red heat of the traditional G&S jollity.

Michael Smith's Nanki-Poo, with its penetrating tenor arias and Coward-like wistfulness, is presumably Zeppo of the evening. It is a thoroughly charming rendering. Kenneth Cox's Mikado is something of a disappointment. Given the other visual parallels, Pooh-Bah's swami aristocrat and Yum Yum's St Trinian's schoolgirl, one expects something more than a firm, bass voice in a billowing white "fat suit". The character never lives up to the grandiosity of his entrance.

The only outright liberty (apart from a few "gaggers" in place of "bothers") is, as in London, the rewrite of *Ko Ko's* "I've got a little list" which amusingly, though anachronistically, skewers a number of topical social types. That incongruity sits easily enough in Miller's anti-traditional setting, but again it makes one hanker for an even bolder updating.

Although the D'Oyley Carte tradition may be mouldering in the dust, the Savoy Operas still have a long lease of life.

Charles Marowitz



Moore in Jonathan Miller's Marx Brothers-style *Mikado*

Baltsa wooden

Benefit Concert
Metropolitan Opera
House,
New York

Plácido Domingo, who opened the current Metropolitan Opera season as Otello and, notwithstanding several cancellations due to illness, has remained a major presence throughout, seemed an obvious choice to sing in a gala concert for the benefit of the company's pension fund. Less so was Agnes Baltsa, making her only appearance with the company this season.

They proved an odd couple in their scheduled duets (from *Aida*, *Cavalleria*, and *Carmen*), with the tenor doing some rudimentary "acting" (mugging, gesturing, pacing) while the mezzo remained nailed to the spot, seldom even acknowledging his presence. Only in an encore, "Dunque io son", from Rossini's *Barbire*, did they interact on an equal footing, finally touching off sparks.

In their joint and individual performances, both betrayed vocal unevenness. Domingo (adding arias from *Leoncavallo's Bohème*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, and *Luisa Miller*) impressed more consistently, though his tone — generally rich, full, and easy — occasionally sounded forced and

wan, cracking in several of the quiet passages.

Baltsa (solos from *Donna del lago* and *La favorita*) produced magnificent moments, but — lacking smooth connections between syllables, phrases and registers — failed to knit them into a coherent whole. Particularly alarming was her discrepancy in registers — the chest-voice generally strong and supple if not particularly lush, the head-voice often shrill. She also tended to drown in orchestral climaxes that Domingo managed to surmount.

David Stivender's chorus gave stirring performances of two Verdi numbers, the "Anvil Chorus" (thankfully unencumbered by any tangible reminder of this season's wretched production of *Traviata*), and "Ve, pensiero", from *Nabucco*. James Levine's orchestra, possessing like capabilities, gave no evidence of any particular inspiration derived from Santi. The strings showed surprising disunity in exposed passages of the Act III intermezzo from *L'Amico Fritz*, the horns a few — alas, unsurprising — lapses throughout. Still, the two overtures — a boisterous "Vespri siciliani" and a seamless, lovely "Italiana in Algeri" — afforded much enjoyment and the gala crowd seemed well pleased.

James R. Oestreich

Breaching a silence

Chris Peachment talks to
Stephen Gray about his
provocative new novel,
Time of Darkness, set in
South Africa

Stephen Gray's novel *Time of Darkness* arrives here garlanded with a highly complimentary recommendation from Athol Fugard. Gray admits to being a "great Fugard follower", with *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* forming a watershed in his life when he first saw the play in the early Seventies. "During the Sixties he was very much an outsider," says Gray, "but he held out for his right to say publicly what he wanted to say. Now he is the arts in South Africa, and one can't help living in the ripples of his splash."

But it was the third play of Fugard's trilogy, *Statements after an Arrest under the Immorality Act*, which probably shaped Gray's thinking on the matter of politicized writing even more. It dealt with an illicit affair between a "coloured" man and a white librarian, but it was an affair suddenly made public under the glaring spotlight of the vice squad. It was this particular clash of public and private morality, each challenging the other, which clearly impressed Gray. It probably fuelled a large amount of the horsepower behind *Time of Darkness*.

Gray's novel deals with a love affair between a teacher at a private boys' school and one of the first black pupils admitted to the school. It is worth stressing the impossibilities of this liaison (although the book is never strident about it). Not only is this a gay affair, and not only is the boy black, he is also under the age of consent, or at least would be, were there an age for consent since homosexuality is still illegal in South Africa.

"There is a thriving gay community in South Africa, just as there is in any part of the world," says Gray. "But part of the impulse here was to stress the affinities and to try and discover just what constitutes an outlaw. A white gay can be just as much an outlaw there as a black one, in terms of human rights. Century Hutchinson passed my book to the South African censors, which isn't a procedure I would have followed. It was kept an awful long time, but was eventually passed for 18-year-olds. One doesn't know whether they balked at the sexual side of things or the political, although of course in my eyes they are inseparable. They never tell you, just leave you in limbo . . . but I don't want to talk about the censors, they are just a hazard of life."

Gray is now a university lecturer and can therefore claim that the book is not strictly autobiographical. "I made the hero a school-



Gray: 'Schools are the crucible of liberation'

teacher, because the schools are the crucible of liberation at the moment," he says. "They are the forum of debate and far removed from my ivory tower. Here is this 13-year-old black kid, and he is much more aware of what is going on than any of the adults, white or black. He was born in the 'children's revolution' and he is the flower of it."

The book is deliberately set in the last six months of 1985, indeed was written while the country was passing through "an awful time in terms of human history, but an exciting one too". Gray maintained at the back of his mind the idea of a foreign reader, "the sort of man who would be intelligent, might be sympathetic to what was going on, but who wasn't necessarily familiar with daily life in South Africa. To him the familiar images of the country would be burning townships, tanks in the streets, political funerals."

"Indeed there are many South African whites who live in a state of voluntary ignorance. The pass laws were still in existence, we had been living with the children's revolution for nine years, and the state of emergency had stopped the flow of news to the outside world. A silence has descended; a silence which must be breached."

The book is a tragedy; it could hardly be otherwise, given its condition. But there is an ironic eye at work, not least in the workings of two sinister policemen who shadow the hero, a Greek-South African and a black trainee. They owe something to the thriller writer James McClure's famous duo, Kramer and Zondi.

"There is a lovely irony in that you have a perfect racially integrated team here, and where it is but in the police? The people who enforce the segregation are the very people, the only people, who have perfected an integrated working life. What can you do but laugh?"

Time of Darkness has just been published by Muller, £11.95.

Credits for the production

OPERA

Così fan
tutte / Rigoletto
RNCM, Manchester

It is never easy to mount two new opera productions on successive nights. Any hitch in either is likely to affect both, and the Royal Northern College of Music was faced with finding a replacement conductor at the last minute for *Così fan tutte*. It was fortunate to be able to turn to Noel Davies, who was already there for *Rigoletto*; but the price, inevitably, was that the first night of *Così* was, musically speaking, somewhat unsettled.

Joseph Ward's production was magnificent. Perhaps it takes an experienced singer to bring an opera like *Così fan tutte* into the light. Again and again there were small details, particularly in the recitatives, which clarified the action just where it was needed. With the help of Matt English's beautifully economical sets he achieved the necessary balance between seriousness and slapstick. To judge from his three recent productions at the RNCM, professional opera companies would do well to investigate his availability.

The singers were evidently distressed by the panic of the situation. All seemed somewhat miscast vocally, and four of them were often lost in the orchestral sound — matters that may rectify themselves over the remaining performances. But Stephen Rooke as Ferrando turned in a finely judged "Un'aura amorosa", and Amanda Roocroft, as Fiordiligi, showed particularly in "Per pietà" that she has a wonderfully clear and attractive voice as well as a true sense of Mozartian style and theatre.

Fortunately, *Rigoletto* was another matter entirely, not least because of Bruno Caprani's considerable success in the title role. His is a lyrical

and full-toned reading with scrupulous attention to the details of the music and an emphasis on the nobility of the lines. His pitch may have been insecure earlier in the evening on the highest note, but he has full control of the entire vocal range. He will surely become an overwhelming Rigoletto when he has had an opportunity to refine some of the characterization.

Sally Harrison is at the moment less suited to Gilda than she was to Massenet's *Manon* last year. Her voice is a little too light and breathy (Amanda Roocroft might have been better), but she sings with a deep musical intelligence as well as considerable charm, and was especially successful in the ensembles of the last act.

Almost any English music college these days is likely to have difficulty in finding a satisfactory Duke: the RNCM used Geraint Dodd, recently graduated but now a member of Welsh National Opera. If his approach was rather wooden, it was at least done with flamboyance and he showed some excitingly ringing high notes. Among the smaller roles, Regina Hanley impressed with a well controlled and characterized Maddalena.

Michael Holt's designs focused on the darker sides of the opera, with the Duke and courtiers dressed in black, and with mainly sombre lighting by Philip L. Edwards. Stefan Ranski showed himself to be a fairly conservative producer, offering no revolutionary view of the opera except in his apt presentation of Medico's scene during the production; he stressed the vitality as well as the sheer malevolence of the court. Superb choral singing and imaginative blocking gave a wonderfully rich aspect to the larger scenes.

Noel Davies conducted a vivacious and well judged reading of the difficult score, securing some of the best orchestral playing I have heard in RNCM operas.

David Fallows

Idiosyncratic acts

Un ballo in
maschera
Covent Garden

To talk of a cast change in this ill-fated *Ballu*, lamented here by John Higgins three weeks ago, is something of a bad joke: from the night it opened (and even before) the cast has scarcely ceased changing.

But with the official new team of principals, this down-at-heel revival has at least gained a soul. Into its gloom and uncertainty has appeared Anna Tomovska-Siatova's Amelia, and she lights every scene which is hers. The voice, with its taut, eastern European vibrato and cunning upper register, is something of a culture shock here, but it propels within it all the anxious colours of fear and grief which Verdi surely heard in his Amelia.

Because of the illness and continuing absence of Giacomo Aragall, her Act II duet with Gustavo must be one of the most idiosyncratic yet perversely gripping this

production has ever heard. Peter Dvorsky, who will now take over the part until Dennis O'Neill's final two performances, sings and acts more like a woodcutter than a king. His rough but ever-ready, aggressiveness is compelling in its own way, but, whereas Tomovska-Siatova integrates here own distinctive personality into the Verdian style, Dvorsky's stop-go dynamics and impetuous phrasing kick too often against it.

To complete this bizarre patchwork of casting, Piero Cappuccilli is back in the role which he opened this production in 1975. His Auckarström could hardly offer a greater contrast to the Secretary's Secretary is disinclined, distant, reluctant to take the foreground physically or vocally. But here, at last, despite a greying voice is the cultivated Verdi singing this revival has longed for, and the audience was quick to appreciate it. Linda Kitchen takes over as an energetic, hard-working Oscar.

Hilary Finch

A recovery at Easter

Holy Days
Soho Poly

In her history of the Federal Theatre Project, Hallie Flanagan describes the work she toured round the Hooversville and destitute rural audiences of the 1930s as "plays showing the struggle of many different kinds of people to understand the natural, social, and economic forces around them."

That may sound like straight box-office poison, but at the time, "thousands of people throughout the country considered such themes dramatic", and they found a permanent place in American theatrical life, re-emerging in times of national trouble as in the repertoire of socially argumentative pieces with which the Louisville festival has responded to the farming crisis.

Sally Nemeth's *Holy Days* is a play of this kind, with the difference that it comments on the plight of the American small farmer from the vantage point of history and national myth. Its locale is the Kansas Dust Bowl of the mid-1930s: the storm-beaten territory from which Dorothy was

THEATRE

swept away to Oz, and which Nemeth calls "the most unreal real event of modern times in America, and when it was over, the grasslands looked like the surface of the moon."

All we see of this lunar landscape is one stricken farm, typical of countless others except that its occupants, two young married couples, have not taken flight.

The power of this 70-minute play derives partly from its unerring choice and arrangement of events. It begins by focusing exclusively on how the characters cope with disaster; bits of basic exposition gradually come to light during the action, as they regain strength to face the facts.

In the opening monologue, for instance, Gant's wife Rosie (Brid Brennan) recalls seeing a field of daffodils through the window, and then going out to find nothing but a wilderness of blackened stalks.

Evidently, there is more on her mind than flower-arrangement; but it is not until half way through the play that we

learn that she has lost a child, and that when she was washing his dust-smothered body for burial, "his mouth fell open and that was full of dust too". Characteristically, this is a low-keyed matter-of-fact line. In Brian Stiller's beautifully judged production, you see them going through hum-drum household tasks and relaxing over cards and whisky; but their voices are unnaturally subdued, and apt to explode into hysterical outbursts over trivial irritations.

At the same time, from Brian Protheroe's masterfully stone-walling Gant and David Beames as the hen-pecked Will, you can reconstruct their domestic life as it was before the disaster. The title refers to the timing of the events in the days before Easter; and Gant's decision to leave home for a WPA job on the day the womenfolk have planned an Easter supper.

As played by Protheroe and Barbara Barnes, this small incident takes on the full force of a collision between love and survival; it also draws on the idea of Easter as a metaphor of recovery.

Irving Wardle

Mid-speech mystery

If there is a confluence of general knowledge trivia and crossword compulsion, it is sure to lie somewhere near *Enquire Within* (Radio 4, Wednesday). The first of the new run had Dilly Barlow and her massed experts answering the most esoteric of questions in great detail.

There were silverfish: not, as you might think, something to squish or complain to the waiter about, but glue-eating insects unchanged for 30 million years. There was a brave but incomprehensible effort to explain the differences between various types of cousins and, finally, a mini-biography of one Ivan Rytsky, a leading figure of Bulgarian monasticism who was mugged by bandits. Fascinating stuff all, and sure to come in handy; but on the vital question of the day there was silence.

The question is, of course, that of who took the decision to cut off the House of Commons microphones during the Budget speech reaction, thus depriving listeners of vital evidence about the condition of Parliament? Does the Speaker's chair

RADIO

have a secret button which isolates Westminster at times of internal civil disturbance? Does a Committee of the House instantly convene, take a straw poll and snip the wires?

Or is there a device like that to be found in village halls during rock concerts, automatically cutting the power when the decibels get too high?

Whatever the procedure, radio stations were left mid-speech with unexpected time to fill and fell back on the old music hall standby of "vamp till go". *PM Budget Special* (Radio 4, Tuesday) had the increasingly authoritative Gordon Clough at the piano, and as the scenery fell on the main act he coped like an old trouper. But as radio so often does at such moments, the programme reverted to the minute repetition of detail.

This resulted, presumably, from an overstructured format and the nation is now intimately familiar with the

financial status of a married man on £12,000 a year with two children, a mortgage and a company car. Apart from wondering whether his smoking and drinking habits were accurately reflected, there was little to do but feel disappointed that while citizens' minds were singularly focused on Mammon, little effort was made to explain the preconditions of general economic policy. Some greater context for the fortunes of the mythical man would have been welcomed.

Striking the right balance between the detailed and the general appears to be a growing problem for broadcasters. While news and current affairs seem too often to favour the former, many programmes seem unable to get to the point. Such was the case with *This Is Who We Are* (Radio 3, Tuesday). A title as affirmative as that is just asking for trouble, and when the subject is the mingling of African and European influences to produce all that is best in contemporary popular music, the analysis is going to have to be pretty sharp.

Instead the programme served up a disappointing mixture of truism, hyperbole, repetition and, its only saving grace, some interesting recordings of Aretha Franklin and Muddy Waters. The fact that blues, gospel, jazz, rock and many other musical forms developed as a silver lining to the dark cloud of slavery is now fairly well known, even among listeners to Radio 3. Anyone dealing with its history therefore has to forego the easy comparisons and continuities and dig into the specific musical relationships which engendered such cultural cross-fertilization. Jumping from a Muddy Waters blues to Bobby Gentry singing "The Ballad of Billy Joe" simply to show that while folk did it, too, is simply not good enough. Radio 3 should either do what it is best at, producing informed analysis and detail about music, or should leave such subjects to its colleagues at Radios 1 and 2.

John Marshall

A MAJOR SEASON OF 'RESTORATION' COMEDIES AT THE SWAN THEATRE

1988

STRAFFORD UPON AVON

THE CONSTANT COUPLE
SPRINGESTRANGER FROM MARCH

THE PLAIN DEALER
BY WILLIAM WILKES FROM APRIL

THE MAN OF MODE
BY GEORGE BERNARD SHAW FROM MAY

RESTORATION
SPEECHES FROM SEPTEMBER

THE REGENERATION WORLD
A SERIES OF GALATEAS AND LECTURES
ON THE HISTORY OF THE SWAN THEATRE
AND THE HISTORY OF THE SWAN THEATRE
IN THE 17TH CENTURY. A SERIES OF
LECTURES BY DR. J. H. B. HARRIS.

RSC

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Fast

Philip L. Harris, the longest serving member of the New York City Police Department, has been named as the first of a new breed of police officers, the "fast" police, who will be trained to deal with the most serious crimes.

Now he is under fire for his role in the police's handling of the 1991 World Trade Center bombing. He is the only officer to be named in the report.

Many of the characters in the novel are composite figures, including the hero, who is based on a real person, and the villain, who is based on a real person.

The novel is a fast-paced, action-packed story that is sure to appeal to fans of the genre. It is a must-read for anyone who enjoys a good thriller.

MONDAY PAGE



The Earl of Snowdon (top right), his grandmother (centre), mother, sister and step-brothers, in 1939

Victoria McKee — with a little help from the Earl of Snowdon — discovers how to be quite at home with Victorian values

Discreetly engraved on the brass letterbox of the big green door at 18 Stafford Terrace, Kensington, are the words "Mr Linley Sambourne Not At Home". This is something of an understatement.

The Punch cartoonist, great-grandfather of the Earl of Snowdon, passed away with the Edwardians on his wife Marion survived him by only a few years — not long enough to see her ordered, upstairs-downstairs world destroyed forever by the First World War. But should either of the Sambournes, by some miracle, walk through that door today, they would feel instantly at home.

To cross the threshold — as invited guests will tomorrow night for a special Victorian "entertainment" — gives the eerie sensation of travelling back in time. Inside is a magical oasis of undisturbed Victorian life.

"The light filtering through the stained glass windows, the glint of polished brass, the ticking of the clocks, the tinkle of the fountain in the water garden; these are the unchanged sights and sounds that Marion knew and loved so well. If she could step through the front door today, she would surely smile and say, as she used to long ago, 'So glad to be home'."

So concludes the forthcoming book about the house and its occupants by the Victorian Society stalwart Shirley Nicholson, with colour photographs by Snowdon, and black and white ones culled from the hitherto untouched collection crammed into every escrow and bureau drawer at number 18.

Tomorrow's festivities are to celebrate the publication next month of *A Victorian Household* (Barrie & Jenkins, £15.95), a witty and all portrait of late 19th-century life, made possible by Nicholson's dedicated deciphering of Marion Sambourne's relentlessly detailed diaries. It could prove the logical, if not chronological, successor to the



Treasured memories: Shirley Nicholson in the drawing room of the house where the Earl of Snowdon's great-grandmother wrote her diaries

Victorians revalued

wildly successful *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. (Bedlinen and wall-paper lines could follow, in time, together with nostalgic biscuit tins, Victorian Lady calendars, and tea towels imprinted with Linley Sambourne cartoons).

The minutiae of daily life in a Victorian household, from nursery to deathbed over 33 years, were chronicled as carefully as household items were inventoried: "Right of fireplace 1 1 drawing on oak frame, 3 engravings in ditto, 7 photographs in ditto, 1 1 photograph in gift ditto..." Everything from the price of hairpins (2d) to the prevailing opinion of Harrods — "dirty place, though cheap" — is faithfully recorded, together with some gossip snippets: "O. Wilde sat next me and spilt all his claret all over my dress..." and mind-boggling menus: "4th March 1879. Eight to dinner. Artichoke soup. Fillets of salmon. Leg of lamb, salad, new potatoes, stewed celery. Wild duck, watercress. Aldershot pud, plum pud. Soft roes of herring, biscuits etc."

When Marion died in 1914 at the age of 62, the house passed to her bachelor son

Roy, an idle sort, according to Nicholson, who never bothered to clean out desk drawers or move furniture around.

At the time of his death in 1946, "few people were keen to buy an unmodernised terrace house in Kensington", Nicholson reports, and "everything Victorian was at the very nadir of popularity". It was only the fact that the Sambourne's remaining child, Maud — the Earl of Snowdon's grandmother — had no financial need to sell her childhood home, and a sentimental reluctance to do so, which preserved it in a time warp: a frozen memorial to Victorian middle-class life. Anne, Countess of Rosse, Snowdon's mother, breathed life back into the house in the 1950s, turning it once again into the setting for glittering soirées.

Snowdon enthusiastically remembers bringing friends such as Peter Sellers and John Wells along to his mother's artistically orchestrated gatherings: "They loved it! My mother was always entertaining and I would wander in with a lot of my friends. There were inevitably a lot of theatre people and a lot of Sir John Betjeman's friends."

On Snowdon's desk, next to his own colour portrait of his daughter Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, pride of place is given to a black and white photograph of his grandmother, still lovely in old age. He can talk effusively for hours about the beautiful Maud.

Proudly, he recalls, "She knew everything — read all the papers, was up on all the gossip. She was wonderful as a grandmother — incredibly generous, and absolutely no rules. She used to come down on the 4th of June to Eton in a huge Daimler, with strawberries and cream — that was during the war, remember, when most people came by train and ate sandwiches!"

Photography runs in what Snowdon laughingly calls his "family of tradesmen". Linley Sambourne used to spend hours photographing family, friends and any passing stranger he could inveigle to pose for the portraits he used as inspiration for his cartoons.

Snowdon has a keen sense of family history and is amused by the thought of the 18th century Linley sisters of Bath having as a housemaid Emma Hart — better known in her later incarnation as Lord Nelson's Lady Hamilton.

In 1975, shortly before her death, he had the foresight to record a priceless interview with his grandmother's maid Adamson. She joined the family in 1913, at the age of 21, for a monthly salary of £2, and you can hear her say — in country tones that could have come straight from Central Casting — "It wasn't like Upstairs Downstairs, you know — that was all before my time. We was treated well..." Even though he's heard it all before, Snowdon listens, rapt. On the tape, as in Marion Sambourne's diaries, it is the most trivial details that provide the elusive essence of the era.

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Linley Sambourne House, 18 Stafford Terrace, London W8, is owned by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and administered as a museum by the Victorian Society. It is open to the public from 1 March to 31 October: Wednesdays 10am-4pm; Sundays 2-5pm.

Fast life, hard lesson

Philip L. Hehmeyer, 37, was the youngest ever chairman of the New York Cotton Exchange in recent history. A Southerner, he cut a dash as the last of the gentleman cotton traders and was revered as a manically brilliant operator in the wild, wild commodities market place.

On August 20, 1982, just two weeks before his wedding, he returned to his exclusive Manhattan apartment, bolted the door and shot himself through the heart.

His death invariably made headlines, sensational and otherwise. And his status at the Exchange earned him a few moments of silence in the trading ring at four World Trade Centres.

Now he is once more the focus of attention with the publication of *High Cotton* (Southern slang meaning "to be in the money") which details his life, loves and excesses on the trading floor as seen from the vantage point of a former girlfriend who was totally obsessed with him for six years.

The author of *High Cotton*, Sherry Daley, is a vivacious blonde who exudes health and optimism. Certainly, she was relentlessly optimistic about the nature of her relationship with Hehmeyer, dedicated to loving him come hell or high water — regardless of whether he wanted her to. Even in the earliest days of their affair, it was obvious that he did not. "It won't work and it'll hurt", he tells her with some accuracy in chapter three.

Daley, now 40, lives in Westport, Connecticut, and wrote the book because, she says, "I wasn't ready to let Philip go".

Many of the characters she mentions are composite portraits, including Hehmeyer's best friend (with whom she had an affair during her on-off relationship with the cotton trader and who unwittingly became the father of her seven-year-old son, Smith). But for truth and reality's sake, says Daley, she decided Hehmeyer's actual name should be used.

The Hehmeyer family maintains that Daley was motivated by more material concerns. "I think she has tried to use her relationship with Philip to get ahead in the world," says the late cotton

When the story of a man's life — and death — is written by the woman he rejected, how much is romantic fiction?



Holding on to her account: Sherry Daley and son Smith

trader's brother, 33-year-old Christopher Hehmeyer, a successful bond trader on the Chicago Board of Trade with his own company. "We had talked to her about changing all the names, but you don't sell books that way."

While Daley, who retains her job as an office manager at an advertising company, prefers not to disclose figures, she says the book has considerably relieved the financial pressure she has been under as an unmarried mother.

Christopher Hehmeyer finds Daley's highly personal and revealing account distressing. "Any time you write about someone who is gone, he can't defend himself, his own feelings, his actions or what he is alleged to have done. We feel frustrated that Philip cannot respond."

Daley was a 28-year-old underpaid secretary, divorced with one failed affair with a married man behind her, when she met the dynamic cotton trader in the summer of 1976. Immediately, she was catapulted into what she describes as "so far, the most exciting and glorious time" of her life.

At a moment's notice she was whisked off to the Masters Tournament at the Augusta Country Club, Georgia, to costume balls and black tie dinners on the exclusive shores of Long Island. Clearly, in her view her affair assumed Great Gatsbyesque proportions, although the litany of drinking bouts (every thought and action in the book seems to begin, continue and end in alcohol) is more reminiscent of Hunter Thompson at the Kentucky Derby.

The fascination and frustration of *High Cotton* lies not so much in the depiction of Hehmeyer's pressurized life-style as the narrator's uncompromising belief that she could make him love her. He moves her in and out of his apartment on a whim, he urges her to become pregnant only to demand later that she have an abortion. He lies to her, neglects her for weeks, then months on end, goes out with numerous other women so that increasingly, the only time she sees him is when he is returned to her by his friends, in a drunken stupor. She maintains his abuse was "an absolute test of my love."

"I stayed by his side and held his hand. If he had been suffering from cancer, I would have been hailed a heroine. Because he was a manic depressive and alcoholic, I'm a fool."

Daley was distraught when she learnt that Hehmeyer was engaged to another woman. She desperately wanted to marry him. Without him, she says repeatedly in the book, she was nothing. Indeed, even today, she says: "I was raised to be somebody's sister, wife, mother, even mistress." The happiest moments in the book are her pregnancy and the birth of her son.

Daley maintains that Philip was always on the verge of suicide and she is convinced that although never in the front lines in Vietnam — he was assigned to the Quin Hon's officers' club — his war experience may well have aggravated his manic depression. Christopher Hehmeyer disagrees. A much more likely cause of his brother's suicide, he believes, was the amount of money he lost in the last week of his life.

It was a shame, Daley says, that Philip was unable to abide by the seventh of the "Twenty-Nine Pointers For Traders", which says: "In addition to understanding the psychology of the investing public, a trader must know himself and provide against his own weaknesses."

Donna Leigh-Kile
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High Cotton: love and death on Wall Street is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on Thursday (£12.95).

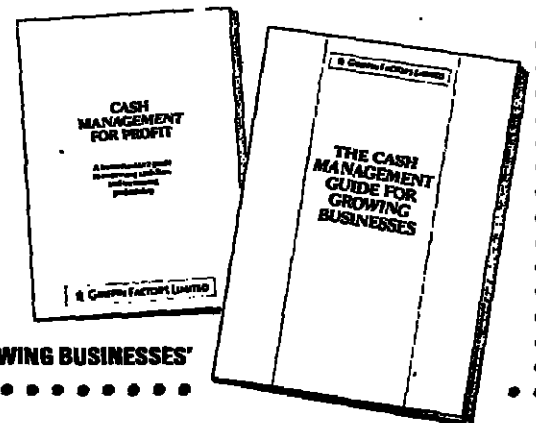
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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax AM.**
6.40 **Leen Enrol** in *It's Take Mike* (b/w). 6.55 **Weather.**
7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Keshi Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 **Regional news and weather.**
9.00 **News** and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes receives viewers' comments on the weekend's television programmes. 9.20 **Kitty!** Robert Kitcher-Silk chairs a studio discussion on importance from which it is estimated 1 in 10 men suffer.
10.00 **News** and weather followed by *The Flintstones* (r). 10.25 **Children's BBC.** Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School*, presented by Janet Porter with guests (r), and *The Adventures of Spot*, narrated by Paul Nicholas (r).
10.55 **Five to Eleven.** A reading by Rudolph Walker. 11.00 **News** and weather followed by *Open Air*, presented by Patsy Cline and Eamonn Holmes.
12.00 **News** and weather followed by *Dayline Live*. Margaret series introduced by Pamela Armstrong and Judi Spiers. 12.35 **Regional news and weather.**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. 1.30 **Neighbours.** There is a surprising candidate for Hilda Mueller's old job. 1.50 **Going for Gold.** European general knowledge quiz.
2.15 **Inside.** The Chief engages in a battle of wits with a jewel thief when guarding a multi-million dollar gem collection (r). 3.05 **Best of British.** Clips from the Frank Stubbs (r). 3.25 **Watchdog.** Consumer affairs series (shown again at 7.40).

BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University: Maths.** Tutor-Marked Assignments. Ends at 7.30.
9.00 **Cee-fax.**
9.15 **Daytime on Two:** what career guidance do undergraduates receive from their universities? 9.30 **Who** earns the best roles in film? 10.00 **For four** and five-year olds. 10.15 **Music from The Sleeping Beauty** with puppets. 10.40 **Thinkabout 11.00.** Australia's Bicentenary. 11.30 **Widows.** 11.45 **Two programmes** to help with presentation, organization and representation. 12.05 **British Social History.** The state of the unions, introduced by Brenda Dean of the Society. 12.30 **An in-depth look** at one of the major issues of the week. 1.00 **Alternative energy sources.** 1.20 **For the young.** 1.30 **Going to school** in Victorian times. 2.00 **News** and weather followed by a story for the young. 2.15 **Songs of Praise** from the village of Newland in the Forest of Dean (r). (Cee-fax).
2.50 **Hedley Kungs.** Kathy Taylor on a farm holiday in Dorsetshire where children and families look after the animals (r).
3.00 **News** and weather followed by *Carolee Beth Waters.* A Professor Cunliffe examines how Roman engineers tackled the problem of controlling the hot springs 2,000 years ago (r).
3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
4.00 **Advice Shop.** Margo MacDonald investigates how the new changes in DSS benefits will affect families reliant on social security payments.
4.30 **Noticelove.** Rob Curling previews radio and television programmes. Marion Foster has news of the Daytime Club.
4.35 **Moment of Truth** for photographer Richard Cooke who is obsessed with taking a picture of a formation of jet fighters trailing smoke flying straight at his camera (r).
5.05 **My Music.** Lighthearted music quiz presented by Steve Race. With Frank Muir, John Arnis, Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (r).
5.30 **Tomorrow's World** (r).



Richard Feynman: BBC2, 8.10pm

- 6.00 **Film: The Big Steel** (1949, b/w) starring Jane Greer and Robert Mitchum. Thriller set in Mexico about an army lieutenant, framed for a pay-roll robbery, who goes in chase of the real culprit. Directed by Don Siegel.
7.10 **Dig.** An animated introduction to geology. With music from Quincy Jones.
7.25 **Open Space: Fighting for Life.** The story of the battle to save 10 Shropshire cottage hospitals threatened with closure.
8.10 **Horizons: The Pleasures of Flying Things Out.** In tribute to Richard Feynman, the Nobel Laureate in Physics and renowned teacher who died last month, a repeat of his programme shown in 1981.
9.00 **Red Dwarf.** The final episode of the science fiction comedy. (Cee-fax).
9.30 **Moondog.** David gives Mackie, the girl he adores, the wedding of her dreams.
10.20 **Indelible Evidence: Gunners.** Ludovic Kennedy introduces the fourth in his series of six crime reconstructions in which the case is solved with help from forensic scientists (r).
10.50 **Newsnight** presented by Peter Snow and Donald McCormick. 11.45 **Open University: Arts Foundation Course.** Ends 12.10am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** with Good Morning Britain at 6.30 and 6.50. After Nine there is a discussion on breast feeding.
9.25 **News.**
9.30 **Lucky Ladders.** The first of a new game show series. 10.00 **Santa Barbara.** 10.25 **News headlines.**
10.30 **The Time.** Khalid Aziz chairs a discussion on a topical subject. 11.10 **Let's Pretend** to the tale of *The Sound Trap*. 11.25 **Thames News.**
11.30 **The Million Stopped Health & Beauty Show.** Advice on looking and feeling good. 12.00 **The Sun.**
12.30 **News.** 12.50 **Thames News.** 1.00 **What's My Line?**
1.30 **Film: The Break** (1963, b/w) starring Tony Britton and William Lucas. Thriller about an escaped prisoner who escapes to an isolated moorland farmhouse. Directed by Lance Comfort.
3.00 **Current.** Religious current affairs series. 3.30 **The Young Doctors.**
4.00 **Ticks on the Tum.** Village tales for children. 4.10 **The Moomins.** Episode 15 (r). 4.30 **The Golden Gate.** Animated adventure series. 4.45 **News at Twelve.** Episode five of the comedy drama series.
5.15 **Compass.** 5.45 **News.** 6.00 **Thames News.** 6.25 **Help with details of EVs.** A motorcycle volunteer service that transports urgent medical supplies.
6.35 **Crossroads.**
7.00 **Wish You Were Here.** 7.30 **Chambers.** In a Cate to check out the motorists abroad and the insurance available to recompense. Annika Rice reports from Australia, and John Carter tries a fly fishing holiday in Umbria, just north of Rome. (Oracle).
7.50 **Schools.**
12.00 **Business Daily.** Financial and business news service presented by Susan Smith.
12.30 **Just 4 Fun.** Children's programmes presented by Pab the puppet.
1.00 **Sesame Street.** Learning series for pre-school children. The guest is singer Ian Reddy.
2.00 **The Late Late Show.** Dublin's music and chat show presented by Gay Byrne.
3.00 **The West of the Imagination.** The third programme of a six-part series documenting the United States' Wild West as portrayed by artists, photographers and cinematographers. This afternoon's programme examines how, even with the Civil War still raging, artists' eyes turned to the West with the photographs of Edwin Muybridge, Timothy O'Sullivan and William H. Jackson inspiring the rest of the country for western adventure. This edition also covers the last of the Indian wars, the completion of the transcontinental railroad and the opening of Yellowstone Park. Narrated by James Whitmore.
4.00 **News.** 4.10 **Movie: Nicholson** talks to comedian Sam MacGrath who has spent the major part of his life dedicated to saving the white winged wood duck from extinction. Now living in Malvern he launches a project, based at the Wildlife Trust at Slimbridge.
4.30 **Fifteen to One.** Fast-moving general knowledge game.
5.00 **The Miniters** (b/w). Vintage American cartoon series about a ghoulish family, starring Fred Gwyn and Yvonne de Carlo.
5.30 **The Beverly Hillsbillies.** Comedy about the off-champ Clamette. This week a Beverly Hills psychiatrist romantically pursues Grammy when her secret love charm breaks down. Starring Judy Eissen and Max Baer.
6.00 **Low Tech.** Programme four of the six-part series in which Rick Ball illustrates how to make simple and imaginative furniture at low cost. Today's theme is the many uses of the oil drum (r).

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 **Promises and Pleasures.** This penultimate programme of Stuart MacLure, editor of the *Times Educational Supplement's* series investigates the information revolution and examines whether the British educational system is prepared to meet the challenge this poses. With contributions from Kenneth Baker, Shirley Williams and Professors Tom Storrer and Aldwyn Cooper. (Oracle).
7.00 **Channel 4 News.**
7.30 **Comment** from Sean O'Brien on the subject of education.
8.00 **Backstage.** Paul finally believes Mona's allegations about ill-treatment at the Home. (Oracle).
8.30 **Kate & Alia.** American domestic comedy about two divorced women who decide to share single parenthood and pool their resources by living in the same apartment.
9.00 **Into Nicaragua.** The second of two British comedies about Richard Watson, respectively a young Scottish midwife and doctor, who decided to dedicate two years of their lives working for Nicaragua's health service.
9.45 **Binky and Boo.** An animated film about some of the music hall greats. With the voices of Jimmy Jewel, Leonard Padden and Richard Pocock.
10.00 **Hill Street Blues.** Funnily hilarious to persuade an ex-gang leader to assist in baiting a corrupt judge suspected of taking bribes. (Oracle).
11.00 **The Elephant Hour: Fire from the Mountain.** A documentary film based on Omar Cabezas's book about life under the oppressive rule of Somoza dictatorship.
12.05 **Film: Simon of the Desert.** (1965, b/w). A black comedy about an ascetic who spends his days on a high pillar in the Mexican desert in order to escape temptation. Directed by Luis Buñuel.
12.55 **Film: The Scenic Route** (1978) starring Judy Danon as a man directed between two sisters. Directed by Mark Rappaport. Ends at 2.20.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 **Wales** 6.30pm-6.40pm **News** followed by *Neighbours* 11.55pm-12.05pm **Wales** (r) 12.05pm-1.00pm **News** and weather. 1.00pm-1.05pm **Wales** (r) 1.05pm-1.10pm **Wales** (r) 1.10pm-1.15pm **Wales** (r) 1.15pm-1.20pm **Wales** (r) 1.20pm-1.25pm **Wales** (r) 1.25pm-1.30pm **Wales** (r) 1.30pm-1.35pm **Wales** (r) 1.35pm-1.40pm **Wales** (r) 1.40pm-1.45pm **Wales** (r) 1.45pm-1.50pm **Wales** (r) 1.50pm-1.55pm **Wales** (r) 1.55pm-2.00pm **Wales** (r) 2.00pm-2.05pm **Wales** (r) 2.05pm-2.10pm **Wales** (r) 2.10pm-2.15pm **Wales** (r) 2.15pm-2.20pm **Wales** (r) 2.20pm-2.25pm **Wales** (r) 2.25pm-2.30pm **Wales** (r) 2.30pm-2.35pm **Wales** (r) 2.35pm-2.40pm **Wales** (r) 2.40pm-2.45pm **Wales** (r) 2.45pm-2.50pm **Wales** (r) 2.50pm-2.55pm **Wales** (r) 2.55pm-3.00pm **Wales** (r) 3.00pm-3.05pm **Wales** (r) 3.05pm-3.10pm **Wales** (r) 3.10pm-3.15pm **Wales** (r) 3.15pm-3.20pm **Wales** (r) 3.20pm-3.25pm **Wales** (r) 3.25pm-3.30pm **Wales** (r) 3.30pm-3.35pm **Wales** (r) 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PART 2

MONDAY MARCH 21 1988

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
SPORT 32-36Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)
 FT 30 Share
 1476.8 (+26.9)
 FT-SE 100
 1855.5 (+43.9)
 Bargains
 40559 (29874)
 USM (Datastream)
 151.08 (+1.65)

THE POUND

(Change on week)
 US dollar
 1.8225 (-0.0310)
 W German mark
 3.0855 (+0.0059)
 Trade-weighted
 76.9 (-0.5)

US NOTEBOOK

Balance of payments crisis still unresolved

From Maxwell Newton
New York

There were signs of relief when the US January trade deficit came in under \$12.5 billion (\$2.8 billion). Bonds improved and the dollar rose to nearly 129 yen.

But the January figure was materially affected by seasonal influences. Both imports and exports fell — the latter by 11 per cent, almost double the imports fall of 6 per cent.

So the speed, or even the prospect, of a further improvement in the US balance-of-payments crisis remains unresolved.

Although January exports were 33 per cent higher than January 1987, they were only 64 per cent of imports and the January trade deficit was only a hair better than that of January 1987.

The US continues to be desperately dependent on the favours and graces of international fund managers and foreign central banks. In the fourth quarter, the nominal current account deficit was running at an annual rate of \$156 billion, still way in front of the 1986 rate of \$141 billion and up 34 per cent over the 1985 rate.

Spending curb

Export volume has raced ahead — up 17 per cent in the past year. But by February, the operating rate for US industry was higher than at any time since the first quarter of 1980 — a time of frantic stress in the US system.

The import hurdle to be overcome is huge and the strain in US industry already so evident, that there is no possibility of a solution to the crisis unless there is further important restraint on consumption — private and governmental.

The "supply side" advocates argue that the US import boom since 1984, with accompanying capital imports amounting to \$500 billion over the years 1984-1987 inclusive, is the result of the US being "so attractive that everyone wants to invest in America. This is like the railroads boom of the 19th century."

Not so. The capital imports boom of 1984-1987 has been used to finance a large expansion of personal consumption spending. Real non-residential private investment has been starved.

Grief in store

In the three years ended the fourth quarter of 1987, real personal consumption rose 9 per cent; real government spending rose 15 per cent; housing investment rose 16 per cent; and non-residential private fixed investment rose 3 per cent.

The next President, whoever he may be, will have almost nothing but grief to give the American people. Higher taxes are a virtual certainty. They are now being openly discussed by Congressional leaders with not a murmur of dissent from the White House.

The Democratic candidates talk as if the spending spigot can be opened still wider. But the foreign central banks and foreign fund managers will have much to say on that question.

A couple of parliamentary Question Time assertions on the pound-mark rate by Mrs Thatcher sent shivers through the US financial establishment. The net inflow of private financial investment fell from \$76 billion in 1986 to \$46 billion in 1987. "Get your money out before Jesse (Jackson) gets in" is a popular cry.

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Pressure over banking licence forced Spens to resign

Bank threat to Ansbacher

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, was threatened by the Bank of England with the removal of its banking licence last year — the most extreme punishment the Bank can inflict — if Lord Spens, its head of corporate finance, did not immediately resign.

It has also come to light that Mr Richard Fenhalls, the chief executive of Ansbacher, was obliged to pass on information about the Guinness affair to the Department of Trade and Industry after being put under "extreme pressure" by the Bank of England. The Bank threatened to instigate a full inquiry into Ansbacher if the DTI were not immediately notified.

Although Mr Fenhalls wanted more time to investigate the facts himself, he considered the Bank's threat "too real and against the interests" of Ansbacher to ignore.

The gravity of the Bank of England's threats shows how seriously it was treating the Guinness affair. They also helped Mr Fenhalls gain the co-operation of Ansbacher directors, many of whom were sympathetic to Lord Spens. Lord Spens, one of Ansbacher's most valuable employees, resigned from the bank on January 22 last year.

The DTI investigation into Guinness was launched on December 1, 1986, and on December 17 Ansbacher held an executive committee meeting to discuss the implications

of the investigation for the bank.

According to minutes of the meeting, Mr Fenhalls told directors that he had "of necessity" told the Bank that no entries had been passed in Ansbacher's books to reflect an interest-free deposit received from Guinness. The Bank of England, said Mr Fenhalls, was insisting that the DTI should be informed.

This deposit was the £7.6 million handed to Ansbacher by Guinness in relation to the purchase, arranged by Lord Spens, of 2.1 million Guinness shares by Ansbacher clients. Mr Fenhalls had in fact told the Bank of England about the deposit on December 5, after ordering an investigation into it as soon as the DTI inquiry into Guinness began.

Lord Spens was not at this December committee meeting. He was, however, at another board meeting on January 21, 1987.

At that meeting, Mr Fenhalls said that the previous evening he and Mr David LeRoy-Lewis, the chairman, had been summoned to the Bank of England by the Bank's supervisory department, headed by Mr Rodney Galpin.

The two men were "informed formally in the light of events and in terms of the Banking Act that it was right and proper that the Lord Spens forthwith resigns his positions and that Board resistance to this instruction would

result in the recognised status of the Company being put in question".

Under the terms of the old Banking Act, "recognised status" means the banking licence conferred by the Bank of England.

Until then, Mr Fenhalls had an understanding with the Bank that Lord Spens would be asked to resign when it could be done with least damage to Ansbacher.

But over the weekend of January 17-18 the Bank's attitude abruptly changed because of what Mr Fenhalls described to the board as heavy government pressure.

It forced Mr Christopher Reeves and Mr Graham Walsh, chief executive and head of corporate finance at Morgan Grenfell, to resign on Tuesday, January 20. That evening it took the same action with Ansbacher over Lord Spens.

Mr Fenhalls "had no choice but to advise the Directors to comply" with the Bank's wishes, which they eventually did "with extreme reluctance". It was also decided that Lord Spens' departure should be "dignified and properly compensated". He later received compensation of £79,000.

Lord Spens was arrested earlier this month and charged with involvement in operations to support Guinness shares during the company's bid for Distillers.

Reagan acts on reforms

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Deep divisions over how to respond to the stock market crash of last October will be aired over the next two weeks as the congressional investigation nears a climax which the White House, belatedly, will attempt to control.

President Reagan is expected this week to appoint formally a high-level committee, chaired by Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, to develop, within 90 days, a consensus on the regulatory changes needed to prevent another crash.

The White House response, the first since the Administration dismissed as heavily-handed the recommendations of a presidential taskforce led by Mr Nicholas Brady, was seen as an eleven-hour attempt to quell the infighting among federal regulators which has given Congress the upper hand.

Although takeover fever has re-emerged in the US, blurring

the images of the crash, the Administration was under strong pressure from the securities and futures industries to take a stand on the introduction of "circuit breakers" and other proposals.

In spite of weeks of closed talks between regulators in Washington and the primary exchanges, there is no agreement. "I cannot give you the assurance that we have fixed the system. I do not believe we yet have in place co-ordinated circuit breakers or margin requirements needed to prevent another market break," said Mr David Ruder, head of the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

But Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the powerful Banking Committee, has warned the Administration that it may be too late to prevent the passage of legislation, which both the White House and industry officials

oppose, on grounds that it will drive business overseas.

Mr Proxmire has insisted that the heads of the three primary regulatory agencies appear before his committee on March 31, with specific legislative recommendations for reform.

Although welcoming the President's new inter-agency committee, Mr Proxmire said that "time is running out and the Congress may be compelled to move ahead whether or not the principal agencies are in agreement."

Fueling the urgency in Congress were the remarks last week of Mr Brady and of Mr Ruder. Both gave warning that, given the flaws in the current system, another crash could occur.

The primary agencies involved are the SEC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the US Federal Reserve Board.

DPR asks to join futures watchdog

By Our City Staff

DPR Futures, the controversial firm that has engaged in high-pressure selling of futures contracts to private investors, has applied for membership of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers.

DPR will need membership of such a self-regulatory body to stay in business under the new system of investor protection set up by the Financial Services Act.

Its application arrived at 5pm on the February 27 deadline for investment firms. The AFBD has received a considerable number of com-

plaints from former clients of DPR about the treatment they have received from the firm.

The Times has also received several complaints from former clients who claim to have lost thousands of pounds through dealing with the firm. Their complaints include allegations that DPR salesmen ignored instructions, acted without their authority, or made misrepresentations.

The Department of Trade and Industry has investigated DPR under section 447 of the Companies Act.

Hope and Glory 'to make profit'

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Mr John Boorman, the British director of *Hope and Glory*, which has been nominated for five Oscars, says he was told by Mr Roger Faxon, a senior vice-president at Columbia Pictures, that the film has already broken even, and is expected to go into profit.

This, Mr Boorman says, contradicts comments made last week by Mr Victor Kaufman, the head of Columbia Pictures Entertainment, who said the studio expected to lose millions of dollars on the film, as well as some 10 to 15



Hard pressed: Richard Fenhalls was obliged to pass information to the DTI

Trade gap expected to narrow

The upward pressure on sterling is expected to continue this week, creating demand for a further cut in base rates. But there could be some nervousness ahead of the February trade figures, due on Friday.

Market expectations are for a current account deficit from £905 million in January, to around £300 million last month.

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, which expects a deficit of £200 million — below the market consensus — says that a strong seasonal pattern has survived in the trade figures.

On this basis, the broker says, the January figures were heavily distorted. After a February deficit of £200 million, it predicts a March figure of £400 million.

But Phillips & Drew still expects a widening of the current account deficit for the year to £5.4 billion, from £1.7 billion last year.

Nomura Research Institute, in predicting a narrowing of the deficit to £300 million, gives warning that the underlying trend remains poor.

The February inflation figures, due on Friday, are expected to be encouraging, with the rate set to edge down to 3.2 per cent.

20% tax rate 'may be achieved in two years'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor's target of a 20 per cent basic rate of income tax can be achieved in two years, City economists say.

They believe the Treasury's forecasts on tax revenues have been too cautious and that scope for tax cuts will be substantial.

Mr Simon Briscoe and Mr Robert Thomas, economists at Greenwell Montagu, the broker, report that the basic rate could be cut to 20p in the pound by 1990 without compromising the new target of balancing the Budget.

Strong growth in revenues will result in a budget surplus, or public-sector debt repayment, of £6 billion in 1988-89, double the Chancellor's target, Greenwell Montagu predicts.

Other economists also believe the Treasury has been cautious in revenue estimates. Mr Roger Nightingale of Smith New Court, the market-maker, predicts a £7 billion public-sector debt repayment in 1988-89. Williams de Broe Hill, the broker, also expects an outturn of this size.

In preparing its revenue forecasts, the Treasury has assumed that tax revenues will grow more slowly than total spending in the economy.

This has not been the case in

recent years, when strong growth in spending has disproportionately increased VAT receipts — because a higher proportion of spending has been on goods subject to VAT. Company profits have risen sharply, increasing corporation tax receipts, while buoyant earnings and rising employment have buoyed PAYE revenues.

Company profits may be hit by sterling's rise, but the Treasury appears to have additionally assumed in its revenue forecasts that there will be a slowdown in the growth of average earnings.

Figures published last week suggested, if anything, an acceleration in earnings growth. The 12-month increase in January, at 8.5 per cent, was unchanged on December, but earnings growth in manufacturing edged higher.

The Greenwell Montagu projections suggest that, subject to control over public expenditure being maintained, the Treasury will have strongly rising revenues over the next few years, and very substantial room for manoeuvre.

The Treasury's projections assume "annual fiscal adjust-

Royal Bank in talks for \$370m US group

By Colin Campbell

Royal Bank of Scotland is set to end its six-year search for a US East Coast bank with the purchase, for cash, of Citizens Financial Group, currently capitalised at \$370 million (£203 million).

Mr Charles Winter, Royal's chief executive, yesterday said talks were still at the preliminary stage, but Royal had been thorough in its homework for a well-run bank with no Third World debt or energy exposure.

Royal, Britain's sixth-largest clearing bank and owner of Charterhouse, the merchant bank, says buying banks in North America is viewed by some as a nervous activity.

However, management had identified an operation which was well run, and it hoped talks would lead to a successful bid.

"We always said we were not interested in the West Coast of America which we view as a shark-infested pool where we do not wish to be," Mr Winter added.

Pretax profits at Citizens Financial, based at Rhode Island, have risen from \$32.2 million to \$43.6 million in the two years ended last December.

ments" or scope for tax cuts of £3 billion in 1989-90, £1 billion in 1990-91 and £1 billion in 1991-92.

Greenwell Montagu's figures suggest these could be exceeded by £6 billion in 1989-90, £10 billion in 1990-91 and as much as £15 billion in 1991-92.

The Chancellor, in a briefing last week, did not set a target date for a 20p-in-the-pound basic rate of income tax. But he thought it could be achieved in less than the nine years it took to reach 25p.

Productivity increases in 1988 are forecast to decline while unit wage costs in the manufacturing sector start to climb again, says a report out today (Roland Rudd writes).

Incomes Data Services, the independent research group, says that although 1987 brought a complete turnabout in productivity and unit wage cost growth, 1988 is likely to see a return to the days when productivity growth did not keep up with unit costs.

The 7 per cent productivity increase in 1987, coupled with a mere 1 per cent increase in unit wage costs, was attributable to the growth in output — which grew by 5.5 per cent in the manufacturing sector.

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ANALYSIS

Auditors' standard reply

Growing disquiet about the quality of financial statements, and complaints that the standard-setting process is too slow, too cumbersome, and too secretive has prompted a review of the Accounting Standards Committee and the whole standard-setting process under the aegis of the professional bodies. A review committee chaired by Sir Ronald Dearing, former chairman of the Post Office, is examining how the functioning of the standard-setting body can be improved and who should pay for it. It will be looking at the composition of the body, its authority, and how compliance with standards can be monitored and enforced.

Before the Accounting Standards Committee was set up in 1969, it was impossible for those reading financial statements to find out what accounting policies had been used in their preparation.

The ASC's early work was very much a question of codifying best practice on subjects which, by and large, were non-contentious. Early standards covered disclosure of accounting policies, calculation of earnings per share, the treatment of depreciation, and standard practice for the flow of funds statements. So successful was its work in these areas that many of the early standards are now taken for granted.

In the second decade of its existence, the ASC has found itself tackling much more contentious issues where there is little consensus. Arthur Young, the accountant, criticizes the present system, saying: "The ASC's authority and credibility has declined and this has impaired its ability to deal with difficult issues."

The Dearing Committee, formed to respond to the mounting criticism of the standard-setting process, has been deluged with submissions.

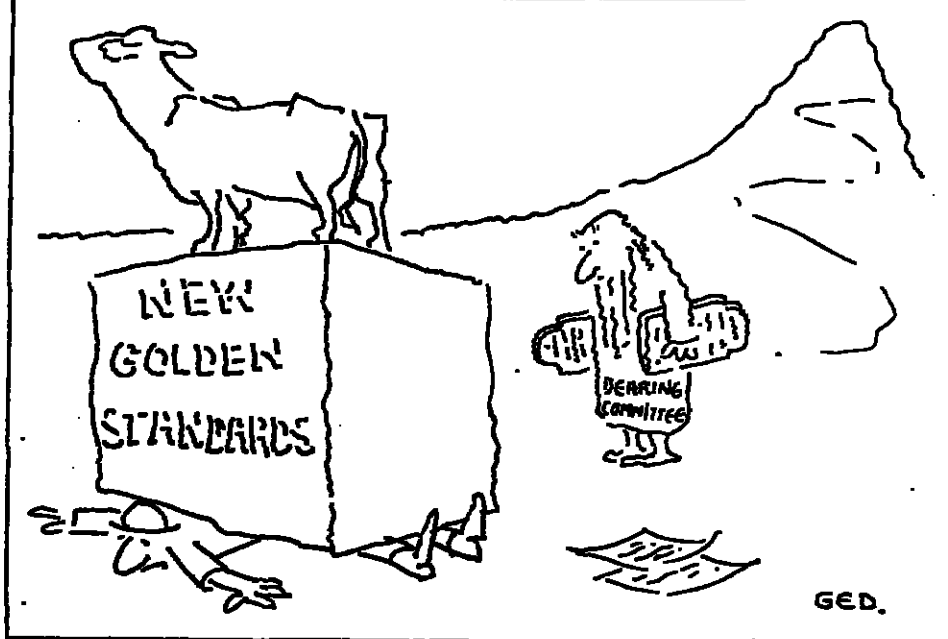
Inevitably, a wide diversity of opinion is emerging. At one extreme are those who see no alternative to legal backing for

detailed standards backed up by government sanctions; at the other are those who see no need for anything more than broad statements of principle sanctioned by a qualification in the audit statement.

All parties, however, see the need for change. There is clear common ground that the new standard-setting body should be small, possibly have a full-time chief executive, should meet much more regularly, be well-supported by a good-sized secretariat and have more financial resources. The ASC is funded by the profession, but a sizeable body of opinion would like to see listed companies bear some of the cost.

There is also general recognition that the new body should be allowed to issue standards in its own right, depriving the accountancy bodies of their right of veto, which has been identified as an important source of delay in issuing standards.

The professional bodies are the most cautious in their approach to change. The Scottish Institute recommends that the primary responsibility for setting standards should remain with the accountancy profession, and that the legal status of standards should not be changed. However, it concedes that there should be an authoritative mechanism to



monitor compliance with the standards, such as an independent review board with powers of enforcement.

The English Institute's submission favours standards which are a general statement of principle rather than detailed standards, but recognizes that this gives rise to the need for continuing guidance and interpretation, something from which the present ASC has shied away.

This appears to be a recognition that the more financially sophisticated we have become, the fewer constraints there are. Topics such as inflation accounting, merger and acquisition accounting — including the treatment of goodwill — and off-balance sheet finance have generated fierce debate among accountants. And the business community has not only become much more inventive, it is less prepared to accept without

question the auditor's interpretation about how a standard should be applied.

There appears to be a wide perception that non-compliance with accounting standards is increasing. In fact, a study by the professional accountancy bodies last year failed to discover any exam-

6 If standards are right then they will be followed

ples of significant non-compliance by public companies.

Critics argue that this is because standards are drafted too loosely, allowing clever finance directors too many loopholes. Hence the calls for detailed standards backed with the force of law.

Unfortunately, setting out the rules in tablets of stone is more likely to encourage the

new breed of financial adviser dedicated to finding ways round them. As the English Institute says in its submission: "With the prospect of financial gain, human ingenuity is as unpredictable as it is unending." Hence the preference for broader standards supported by a continuing process of guidance and interpretation, a process which would be greatly assisted if there were an agreed framework of accounting principles against which the standards were drawn up.

Devising an accounting framework should not, on the face of it, be too difficult. It would, for instance, enable accountants to recognize assets and liabilities. These words in everyday use seem clear enough in their meaning, until one remembers that "off-balance sheet finance" begs the schoolboy's question — when is a liability not a liability?

Mr Ray Hinton, a partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountant, said: "When a new problem comes up, we flounder because we cannot agree on first principles."

Nevertheless, if a serious effort were put into producing a coherent accounting framework recognized by the profession, all sorts of benefits would follow.

Most importantly, the accounting standards would gain immeasurably in authority. Touche Ross, the accountant, says in its submission to the Dearing Committee: "We do not believe that standards should be enforced either by law or by disciplinary action by the accountancy bodies. If the standards are right, then they will be followed to a large extent in spirit as well as in letter."

Others are less sanguine. Price Waterhouse says respect for accounting standards will only come "from a combination of perceived quality and the expectation of enforcement." In extreme cases, it sees no reason why the threat of suspension of listing should not be used as the ultimate deterrent.

James Carty, a partner at Robson Rhodes, is more trenchant. "Getting the Department of Trade and Industry to accept the responsibility for enforcing standards is the answer."

These are questions of genuine uncertainty and disagreement. But a good start would be a better-funded standard-setting committee, manned by the very best and most able individuals money can buy, whose first job would be to make a serious attempt to come up with a set of accounting principles and objectives as a matter of urgency.

Carol Ferguson

GILT-EDGED

An external deficit matters more than a Budget surplus

The United Kingdom appears to be at the crossroads. Is the economy set for a renaissance, with steady non-inflationary growth, as the Chancellor wants us to believe? Or will it be constrained by the deterioration of the trade and current accounts and enter the Dark Ages?

We are continually told the economy is growing strongly, and so it is. We are also told the main risks are overseas. This may be the case, particularly as the global economic imbalances are only being tackled painfully slowly. It is, however, probably more pertinent to look at the domestic economy as there are clear risks.

In the wake of the Budget, the question for the gilt market is whether a balanced Budget, or indeed a Budget surplus, compensates for a current account deficit? I believe that it does not.

The borrowing by the Government and the private sector's borrowing are identical to the deficit on the current account. Thus, if the Government plans to run a surplus, or a lower level of borrowing than the deficit expected on the current account, this implies that the private sector is in deficit.

Thus, while the Government claims it is pursuing a prudent fiscal stance, particularly in rechanneling receipts to individuals, this could prove to be very risky. The hard fact is that the private sector is likely to continue to disinvest, as it has been doing recently. This can be seen from the recent declines in the savings ratio.

This is explained by a number of factors. In a low inflation environment, individuals need to save less to meet target savings levels. Also, strong rises in house prices, which form a large proportion of non-financial wealth, make individuals feel less inclined to save. Furthermore, in the absence of controls on credit growth consumer borrowing remains high.

Against this backdrop, and in view of the large tax cuts last week, it is strange that the Chancellor did not introduce any important tax changes aimed at increasing domestic savings. As a result, the increase in disposable income is likely to be directed into higher demand for imports, exacerbating the trend deterioration on the current account.

It points to large rises in consumer expenditure. With the Budget cutting top tax rates by a sizeable amount, it is interesting to see how those who gained most spend their money. According to the 1986 Family Expenditure Survey, the top 5 per cent of households (in terms of income) spend 10 per cent of their money on household durables and 14.5 per cent on cars. This compares with 8 per cent and 12.5 per cent for the average household. Further demand for these goods is likely to be met by imports.

If the current account deficit continues to grow this will reduce the growth potential of the economy. Furthermore, as the rate of economic growth slows down, this limits the growth prospects of government revenues. Unless the Government reduces its expenditure this would lead to a reversal of the favourable

position on government borrowing.

The external constraint would not only require fine-tuning of domestic policy but would also mean sharing the credibility of the Chancellor's fiscal plans.

In the absence of policies to direct more personal sector income into savings rather than foreign goods, the Chancellor needs to boost the supply side. In particular, policies should be aimed at boosting domestic investment.

It is not just strong domestic demand that accounts for increased import penetration: the problem appears more structural. Also, it is disappointing that despite recent gains in competitiveness, British exports have not increased their market share of overseas economies. The lack of investment in the United Kingdom, hence Britain's inability to produce sufficient quality goods to meet domestic demand, appears to explain the problem on the current account.

In Britain, the problem over the forthcoming year is that growth is unlikely to be as balanced as in 1987. The consumer sector is again set to grow strongly.

Import penetration will remain high, while exports are set to be hit by slower demand overseas and sterling's recent strengthening. Thus, the current account deficit will continue to grow, exerting downward pressure on the exchange rate.

It is often stated that the current account does not have to be a problem if it can be funded. This is true. However, one question this raises is at what level this becomes a problem.

The crucial point is that to attract overseas capital may require a level of interest rates and sterling that conflicts with the requirements of the domestic economy. As the Americans have recently found, this can create a problem.

Sterling is still inherently weak, and this implies that interest rates may have to rise further in order to attract overseas investment.

One of the first problems associated with relying on such overseas flows of funds is that international capital can move very quickly into a currency — and just as quickly it can flow out. The prospect is thus of the economy being dependent on overseas investors. The greater a country's reliance on such overseas flows, the more draconian would have to be the corrective policy actions.

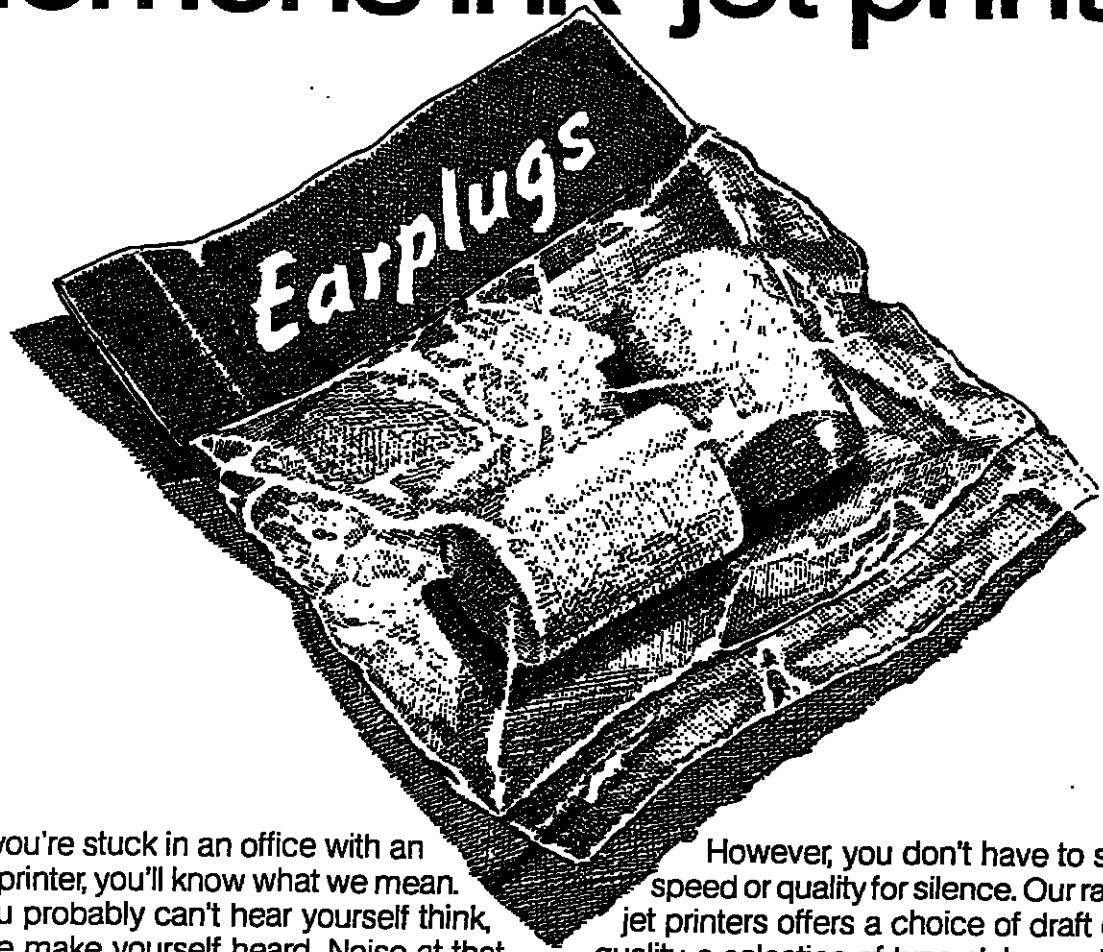
There is, however, a further difficulty in relying on borrowing from overseas: that is whether borrowing is to finance consumption or investment. If it is investment then this is a positive sign. Unfortunately, there are signals that it is financing consumption.

As a result, while the gilt market contemplates the prospect of low net gilt sales, it is possible that the planned fiscal position of the Government could be dissipated by private sector profligacy. It is this longer-term problem that the Budget failed to address. The clear implication is that after a short-term rally, gilt yields are likely to rise.

Gerard Lyons
SBCI Savory Milth

SIEMENS

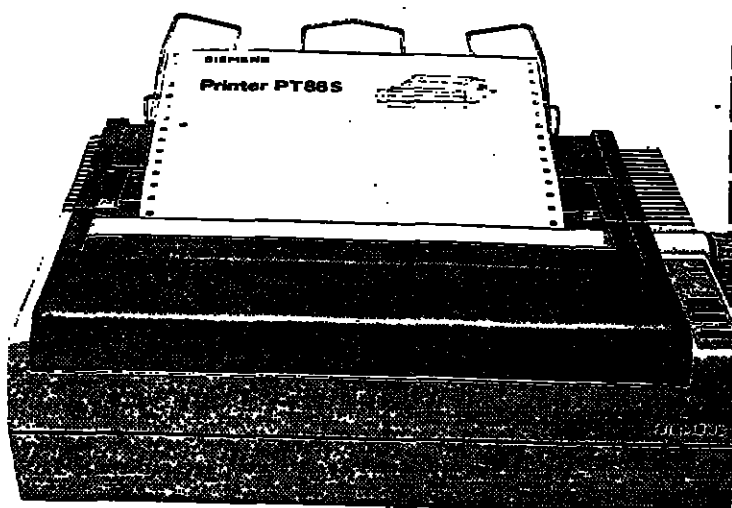
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Brierley group set to block Holmes à Court restructure

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Sir Ron Brierley and Mr Kerry Packer were poised at the weekend to block Mr Robert Holmes à Court's proposed \$700 million (£284 million) restructuring. They are bidding \$825 million for Bell Resources, the cash-rich company that Mr Holmes à Court wants to merge with his parent Bell Group.

On Friday, the Australian Stock Exchange banned BHP, which owns almost 5 per cent of Bell Resources, from voting at the company's extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday.

It seemed BHP, which recently paid Bell Resources \$52.1 billion for almost 20 per cent of its own stock, to be an associate of Bell.

Given that Bell Group has a 43 per cent equity holding in

Bell Resources, and is also ineligible to vote, the remaining 52 per cent will determine the company's future.

Analysts said the Brierley-Packer consortium already appeared to have sufficient votes and proxies to defeat the reverse takeover resolution.

The market — relishing a duel between Mr Holmes à Court, Australia's richest man before the crash of October, and Mr Packer, undeniably the present richest Australian — and Sir Ron, his "beloved cricket-loving rival" — pushed Bell Resources 19 cents higher on Friday to \$1.54 at the close. This is 4 cents above the bid price.

Potts' West Trumbull, the broker credited with advising Mr Packer to join forces with Sir Ron, calculates that Bell

Resources is worth \$2.40 a share.

Meanwhile, Sir Ron's principal company, Industrial Equity Ltd, has instructed its solicitors to seek a Supreme Court injunction today to prevent Bell Resources from holding the extraordinary meeting.

Sir Ron said on Friday that Bell Resources shareholders were being asked to ratify a restructuring in which the "terms and price" have not been spelled out.

The Bell proposal did not specify whether its offer would be conditional on reaching Australia's 90 per cent compulsory acquisition level. Sir Ron's offer is conditional on a 50.1 acceptance.

More than 74 million Bell

Resources shares, 13 per cent of the capital, have been exchanged since Mr Holmes à Court said last month that Bell Resources would bid \$1 cash plus one Bell Resources share for each Bell Group share.

In London on Friday, Mr Holmes à Court was seeking support from key institutional investors. He held talks with Warburg Securities for more than an hour, leaving the meeting with the impression that Warburg would support the Bell Resources offer.

"There could be a possibility," he said, "of a takeover of the Bell Resources group by the Japanese. The Japanese are very active in the world market."

Ford warns output may top demand by 20%

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Ford expects that worldwide vehicle production could outstrip demand by as much as 20 per cent — 9 million vehicles — within two years.

The warning comes from Mr "Red" Poling, vice-chairman of Ford, which is the world's second largest car and truck maker.

Mr Poling told industry executives in Detroit: "World-wide automotive demand is expected to grow from last year's 44 million units to 52 million in 1996, but, unfortunately, the rate of growth in automotive capacity will be much higher."

"Announced additions to capacity, especially Japanese plants in North America and Europe, as well as new Korean plants, could result in world-wide capacity of about 55 million units as early as 1990."

"This exceeds our forecasted demand for 1990 by more than nine million units."

"Overcapacity of this magnitude means we will be facing a brutally competitive environment worldwide. It means capacity for about 20 per cent more vehicles than there will be customers to buy."

"It means that there will be manufacturers today that will be unable to survive to the end of the century, if that long, in their present sizes and structures."

The big Japanese manufacturers are rapidly increasing production capacity in North America, following the massive strengthening of the yen against the dollar.

The swing in the exchange rates is so marked that Honda has announced it will export 50,000 cars a year from its Ohio plant to Japan.

However, it will also export 20,000 cars to Europe, in the knowledge that the EEC will be unable to hinder imports of US-built Japanese cars, for fear of retaliation against the massive European exports to America. One industry forecast suggests US exports to Europe will reach 500,000 cars in the 1990s.

The weakness of the dollar against European currencies has opened the way, not only for US-built Japanese cars, but also American cars which are becoming more European as they evolve. Chrysler will soon launch four US models and the off-road Jeep on most European markets, hoping to sell more than 15,000 cars in the first year. General Motors expects sales of US models in Europe to double to 20,000 by next year.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Lawson package boosts long-term performance

As the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, winds up the Budget debate this evening, he can be fairly pleased with the reception his proposals have had so far. The strongest criticism has been that this is a rich man's Budget, but it is difficult to cut top tax rates without giving at least some benefit to top-rate taxpayers. The aim, as Mr Lawson remarked last week, is to improve the performance of the economy, and that will benefit everyone.

By that criterion, the Budget is a notable success, even if it is something less than a triumph. Tax rates have gone down and incentives have gone up. The distortion of behaviour by the tax system has been reduced. And life has been simplified for the taxpayer. All these elements will help to make the economy more efficient.

Much the most important change, from the point of view of economic efficiency, is the big cut in the top rate. Mr Lawson has not achieved the classical objective of cutting marginal rates on every extra pound earned while keeping average rates unchanged.

Although there were some increases in tax for higher-rate taxpayers in last week's package, such as the doubling of tax on company cars and the confinement of mortgage interest relief, higher-rate taxpayers will clearly be much better off, increasing the charms of idleness as well as the incentive to earn more.

Nevertheless, it seems inconceivable that such a substantial cut will not produce a more productive use of time and effort. In the nine years since the last cut in the top rate, from 83 per cent to 60 per cent (which, like last week's package, also brought down average rates), the proportion of total income tax contributed by the top 5 per cent of incomes has actually increased, from 24 per cent to 29 per cent. This is partly because salaries have risen faster at the top end, partly because tax avoidance has become less worthwhile, and partly because of the greater incentive to earn. All may be measures of higher output.

The efficiency benefit from reforming capital gains tax will be of a different kind. One of the touchstones of a good tax system is that it should not unduly influence people's behaviour. By exempting pre-1982 gains, the Chancellor has removed the tax penalty on realizing the inflationary gains of the 1970s and encouraged the efficient redeployment of capital (most of it held by companies).

At the same time, by taxing capital gains at the marginal rate of income tax, he has much reduced the tax incentive to prefer an investment yielding capital to one yielding income. Where a high-rate taxpayer might formerly have preferred

to invest in property for capital gain, he may now be attracted to an investment yielding a high income, such as a job-intensive business. The tax treatment is still not totally neutral because there is a £5,000 exemption on capital gains, largely for administrative convenience, but there has been a useful levelling of the playing field in this corner of the system.

Alignment of the rate of inheritance tax with the top rate of tax on income and on capital gains has less to do with tax neutrality than tidiness and politics. If there is any gain to economic efficiency, it is from the stimulus to building up capital because of the lower rate of tax payable on it by the inheritors.

The efficiency gain from abolishing capital duty, levied whenever companies raise new capital, is a straightforward removal of a tax on business expansion. And the extension of the Business Expansion Scheme to companies letting residential property on the assured tenancy basis — that is at market rents — will help to kick-start the revival of the private rented sector. That should make it easier for workers to move to where the jobs are.

Of course, many tax inhibitions on the supply side of the economy are still left. Capital duty may have gone on the raising of new capital, but stamp duty remains on the redeployment of capital — and of labour where buying a new house is involved. Tax relief on mortgages and pensions still create huge distortions in favour of certain types of saving, and the interaction of National Insurance contributions with income tax still produces an erratic progression of marginal rates up the income scale.

Nevertheless, the Budget's profit-and-loss account in promoting economic efficiency is indisputably positive. And considered as part of a series, as it should be, the achievements are impressive. The basic rate of income tax has gradually come down since 1979 from a third to a quarter. The top rate has more than halved. The number of rates levied on capital transfers has fallen in stages from 17 on lifetime transfers and 14 on transfers after death to a single rate of inheritance tax. Also, a steady trickle of tax breaks has been drained away.

No one could say the broad direction of change in the tax system has not been clear, and the cumulative effect on behaviour — small perhaps as a result of any single Budget — must be substantial. Looked at in the overall context of reforms, both past and projected, the epithet "radical, tax-reforming" is well deserved.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Boom time for security glaziers

By Colin Campbell

Custom Made Commercial, an East London specialist glazing contractor in which MIM Development Capital recently took a £1.5 million equity stake, is planning a Stock Exchange listing within 18 months, the founding shareholders said yesterday.

The company was formed in 1982 by Mr Christopher Lehmann, the chairman, and Mr John Dougall, the managing director.

Custom Made specializes in anti-bomb and bullet-resistant glass and associated window refurbishment. Customers include the Government, local authorities, politicians and members of the diplomatic corps.

In the year ended August 1987, turnover rose from £1.3 million to £3.3 million and pretax profit from £59,570 to £269,000.



Fired by success: Christopher Lehmann (left) and John Dougall (Photograph: James Morgan)

Takeover risk in EEC

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

British electronics companies moving into Europe to take advantage of the single market of 1992 are likely to become targets for cross-border takeovers, according to a report by CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, today.

Many British companies are strong technologically, and are small enough to serve as acquisitions that make sense, both financially and man-

agerially, says the report, prepared by Mr Robert Kerr.

"A number of cross-border mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures in both manufacturing and marketing and distribution, are inevitable — and most notably for the British, for whom it will be crucial because of their relative size, lack of muscle and dependence on the domestic market," said Mr Kerr.

Morton deal for F&H

By Michael Tate

Mr Bob Morton, the former chairman of Burgess Products, has stepped in with a £2.8 million rescue deal for F&H Group, the USM-quoted electronic systems supplier.

He is underwriting a three-for-two rights issue at 20p, as part of a deal that is expected to leave him with approximately 22 per cent of the enlarged company, and install him as chairman.

F&H postponed publication of its interim results last month, pending the outcome of an independent financial review, and warned shareholders to expect a trading loss for the period.

Shares in F&H, floated by Smith New Court in July 1986 at 134p, crashed 18p to 75p when news of the problems broke last month, and are currently changing hands at 71p.

Advertisers forget there is life after 50

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs Correspondent

Advertisers should focus much more on the over-50s age group, says a study by Holmes Knight Ritchie.

The London advertising agency says that memories of wartime austerity and rationing, keenness to learn new skills, lack of experience of being a teenager, and a desire to pamper themselves in retirement are all important reasons why this age group should be targeted specifically.

People in the 50-65 age range, have been forgotten by

companies in their advertising, even though this generation represents £108 billion in disposable income, makes up a third of the population and owns 70 per cent of all savings.

In comparison, the youth market, aged 16 to 24, has an income of only £30 billion and the family market, aged 25 to 45, is worth £112 billion a year in disposable income.

The "granny boomers," "glams," "whoopies" (well-off older people), or "jollies" (jet-setting older people with lots of loot) — all descriptions they hate — have reached this

enviable financial position because of the increase in early retirement, introduction of occupational pensions, matured insurance policies, inheritances, and freedom from mortgages and the expense of raising children.

The study, which was compiled with the Social Futures Unit, an independent marketing and social consultancy, shows that these fit and adventurous over-50s are strong believers in value for money, craftsmanship, quality and after-sales service which are reflected in what they buy.

Their purchases include freezers, fridges, microwave cookers, Japanese-made cars (which are economical with petrol and complete with extras), compact-disc players and auto-focus cameras.

The group, according to the study rejects "hype" in selling.

Sadly, according to the unpublished research, brand managers who influence British advertising are between 30 and 35 years old and look to their peer group, not their parents, for inspiration on how to sell products.

A judge with wide appeal

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who has replaced Lord Hailsham as the Lord Chancellor, has been criticized in certain legal circles for apparently "sitting on the fence" on a number of issues. His nickname is, therefore, I am told, Lord Mackay of Clashfern. But the unpretentious and eminently likeable peer, born and educated in Edinburgh and the son of a railway porter, is nevertheless held in high regard in a number of less-likely quarters. Once described by Mrs Thatcher as having "the most profound and far-sighted legal mind in Britain" — praise which is all the more significant given that the law was his second career, after he had been a maths lecturer at St Andrew's University — Mackay, aged 60, has, more importantly, won the support of the lawyer's traditional clientele. Speaking at a luncheon in Glasgow the other day, in aid of the Newspaper Press Fund, a charity for journalists, Mackay amused the locals by admitting that he "derived a great deal of professional work from this city". Indeed, so well does the Glasgow underworld know the erstwhile Lord of Appeal that he even received a congratulatory letter upon his elevation to Lord Chancellor, signed by a gang of youths going by the name of "The Glasgow Boys". After wishing him well in his new position, they let the good judge know that while they "didn't mind porridge," they preferred it "in their own house".

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Stakis's newest stake

Reo Stakis, the 76-year-old chairman of the Glasgow-based hotel, restaurant, casino and financial services group which bears his name, has long had one eye on retirement. He has stepped down as chairman once already, with the intention of handing over to BAE chairman Professor Roland Smith. But, after it had been decided that Smith's commitments were too heavy elsewhere, he became a

consultant and Stakis resumed the chair. Now, perhaps with his own future plans in mind, Stakis is, I hear, diversifying into the nursing home market. In a pilot scheme, it is planning to refurbish a former children's home in Glasgow to accommodate up to 70 elderly customers, each paying in excess of £200 a week. Stakis says that if the home is successful, it is looking at another six sites in Scotland.

Tree talk

Environmentalists in Scotland rejoicing over the cessation of income tax benefits from tree planting may find their celebrations short-lived. At the 30th anniversary luncheon last week of Economic Forestry, which floated on the stock market in June last year, it was, I hear, made clear that the industry still has a number

of influential friends. Economic Forestry's new chairman is, after all, Lord Rees of Goytre, better-known as the former Chief Treasury Secretary, Peter Rees. And alongside him at the top table were Welsh Secretary Peter Walker and Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley — who announced last week that the Forestry Commission was to discourage the planting of conifers on England's uplands. Also at the same table was Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish Secretary. Walker apparently spoke about the Government's need to stick to its planting target of 33,000 hectares of new forest a year. According to Rees, that planting is currently falling short by some 14,000 hectares a year. Given Ridley's broadleaf planting plans for England, that shortfall will now increase, the result being, observers say, more conifer planting in Scotland and Wales.

Greener on other side

Hill Samuel has, I can confirm, lured Bay Green away from Kleinwort Greaveson to head its corporate finance department, depleted last year by the sackings of Trevor Swete and Christopher Rosher. Green, a senior director within the Kleinwort corporate finance department, made a name for himself when he helped Sir Terence Conran fend off the unwelcome advances of Mountleigh toward Storehouse. Speaking from his farm in County Wicklow, in the Irish Republic, where he spends his weekends, David Davies, chief executive of Hill Samuel, yesterday described Green as "the best man for the job," and told me he hoped that Green would be installed in his new post in about a month. Davies, who also has homes in Hong Kong and London's Kensington, and is clearly keen to lay his old playboy image to rest — he let slip that he had just returned from tending to his sheep and cattle when I rang — was suitably diplomatic when asked if Green's move meant that Kleinwort is also about to lose Conran. "I happen to know him extremely well and would be delighted to have him as a client," he said. Stay tuned...

Perhaps the Department of Trade and Industry should be told which ones... Barclays Bank has taken a full-page advertisement in *High Life*, British Airways' glossy in-flight magazine, which carries the heading: *Some rules are just made to be broken*.

Carol Leonard

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

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Since the Budget the whole picture of BES Investment has changed dramatically.

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- Finally, the imposition of a ceiling on the amount which any one company can raise under the BES will mean that many current public offers will have to close short of the targeted capital requirement, which may severely curtail the company's commercial opportunities. (Additionally, of course, the investors' choice will become limited.)

Lazard Brothers have therefore launched The Tenth Lazard Development Capital Fund to offer investors the unique combination of 60% tax relief with 40% Capital Gains Tax exemption. Lazard is the leading manager of Approved Funds having raised around £36m under the BES.

To qualify, applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 5th April and investors should take care to avoid the possibility of postal delays over the Easter holidays.

For a Memorandum describing The Tenth Lazard Development Capital Fund please telephone Jane Lamont or Anne Bamford on 01-935 2731. Additionally, copies of the Memorandum may be collected from Lazard Development Capital Limited, 44 Baker St., London W1M 1DH or from Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT on and after Wednesday 23rd March 1988. Alternatively, clip the coupon below.

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Imperial to reduce number of tobacco brands by 60%

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Imperial Tobacco, part of the Hanson organization, is planning to cut the number of its cigarette and other tobacco brands from 155 to 63, an unprecedented 60 per cent reduction.

It could put at risk its market share in cigarettes, cigars and pipe tobacco just as it is fighting hard to move firmly ahead of Gallaher, the other big British tobacco manufacturer.

The move is part of a restructuring of Imperial's marketing operations which includes merging the Wills and Player sales forces by mid-1989. The merger will also see the elimination of Imperial's 155 brands, which have made up W.D. & H.O. Wills and Player's but at brand names Wills and Player's only.

The brands, including 100 named brands, are expected to be shown on retail shelves during September and October.

Cigarette brands, down by almost a half from 45 to 25, creating 10 new brands, will be the main focus of the restructuring. The total cigarette market share of tobacco for hand-rolling cigarettes dropped from 27 to 25 per cent in 1987, presenting the risk of a 2 per cent loss of market share.



Market move: Peter Middleton with some Imperial brands

And there is a risk to 3 per cent of market share in cigars as the British brands drop from 14 to six. Imperial also imports the Henri Witterman range from Holland.

Imperial's pipe tobacco brands, down from 56 to 11, are also being reduced. The company is threatening a near 5 per cent drop in market share.

Mr. Peter Middleton, Imperial's sales and marketing director, said: "At first sight the reduction in brands appears to be a radical move."

campaign could mean Imperial would lose nothing.

Not as many well-known brand names will disappear as might be thought, because many of the doomed brands are variations of names that will still figure in the range. But the weeding out of cigarettes will see the disappearance of the up-market Fribourg & Treyer brand and the Carlton name. Woodbine filter goes but the plain version of the brand remains. So do versions of other brands with a long history such as the Captain and the Duke of Wellington.

Among cigars the Doncella and Grande brands will go. So will the more historical Imperial, once known as Imperial Cigarettes and Cigars, and the long-established Carlton brand.

But the big shake-up is in pipe and hand-rolling tobacco which will see the disappearance of names such as Black Beauty, Early Bird, Special No. 1, Redbreast and Tam O'Shanter. As well as big sellers like Gold Block and St Bruno, survivors will include Three Nuns, Digger, Odeon's Walnut Flake and Wills' Cut Golden Bar.

Mr. Middleton says Imperial will be going for better quality and higher sales. The move is aimed at concentrating on best-selling lines with simplified ordering and faster stock turn.

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Benedetti expected to win only 2% backing for offer

From Jonathan Brando, Brussels

Cerus, the Paris-based holding company of the Italian businessman Signor Carlo de Benedetti, will today release the results of its public share offer for Société Générale de Belgique, Belgium's largest company. Acceptances are already known to be meagre.

Analysts believe the two-week operation yielded barely more than 2 per cent of La Générale's shares by the time the offer closed on Friday.

They expect this to be confirmed by Cerus today, leaving Signor de Benedetti and his followers with less than 50 per cent of La Générale.

The original offer, for 15 per cent of the shares, was trimmed to 7 per cent after Cerus had been forced to double its bid to Bfr8,000 (£124) a share. However, by the time the public share offer opened, most had already been committed to either Signor de Benedetti or Compagnie Financière de Suez, his Paris-based opponents, and few uncommitted shares came on to the market.

Signor de Benedetti's aides continue to cast doubt on Suez and its allies' claims to have 52 per cent of the shares, and there are similar question marks over the Italian's own claim of more than 47 per cent, made during the early stages of the public share offer.

It was the announcement of Signor de Benedetti's share offer two months ago that sparked off the takeover battle, setting off a massive restructuring of La Générale's shareholding pattern.

The Italian confidently expected to end up with a 33 per cent stake in La Générale.

BRITISH STEEL CHANGES THE FACE OF CHINA.



RESULTS

TODAY - Interims: Barry Wehmiller International, Entertainment Production Services, James Halstead Group, London & Strathclyde Trust, Pifco Holdings, Pressac Holdings, Spectrum Group, Tottenham Hotspur, WA Tyack, Unigroup. **Finals:** ASD, Berkeley and Hay Hill Investments, Booker, Bredon Properties, Evans & Halshaw Group, Garton Engineering, Hickson International, Iceland Frozen Foods Holdings, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Linread, Hugh Mackay, Metaltrax Group, Memec, Rugby Group, Rutland Trust, Spring Ram Corporation, Suter, Trinity International Holdings.

TOMORROW - Interims: Baxters, Benchmark Group, Boase Massimi Pollitt, Burton Group, EFM Dragon Trust, GC Flooring & Furnishings, Gabicci, Johnson Group Cleaners, Lloyd Thompson Group, John Maunders Group, Stanhope, Strong & Fisher Holdings, Tay Homes. **Finals:** Banner Homes Group, Bilston & Battersea Enamels, Bowthorpe Holdings, Clyde Petroleum, Computer People Group, Geest, Hall Engineering Holdings, Hunter, Jantar, Lancaster, MBS, Stanley Miller Holdings, Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation, Plesurama, Prudential Corporation, Sharpe & Fisher, T&S Stores, Trade Indemnity, Waterford Glass Group, Wolstenholme Rink.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Bankers' Investment Trust, Barratt Developments, Chambers & Fergus, Murray Electronics, Randsworth Trust, Sanderson Murray & Elder Holdings, Frank Usher, Zambia Consolidated Copper

Mines. **Finals:** Aurora, Charles Barker, Barker & Dobson Group, Boddington Group, Britannia Arrow Holdings, Britannia Assurance, British Mohair, Campari International, CLE Holdings, Christy Hunt, Cundell Group, Delaney Group, Early's of Witney, Falcon Industries, Hepworth Ceramic Holdings, Jamesons Chocolates, Jones & Shipman, Bernard Matthews, Monument Oil & Gas, Meggitt Holdings, Northern Engineering Industries, P-E International, Rentokil Group, Rotork, Sikolene Lubricants, Stag Furniture, Sunleigh Electronics, Tibbett & Britten Group, Woolworth Holdings. **THURSDAY - Interims:** Lucas Industries, Minerals Oils and Resources Shares Fund Inc, Pegasus, Tip Europe. **Finals:** Arnotts, Automated Security Holdings, Bairo Industries, Bemrose Corporation, Brake Brothers, Bridon, Catalyst Communications, Central Independent Television, Cookson Group, Colographic, Croda International, Dean & Bowes Group, Desoutter Brothers, European Home Products, Filofax, Guinness, Isle of Man Steam Packet, Leasing Properties, London & Edinburgh Trust, Martin Currie, Pacific Trust, Rolls-Royce, Shorro Group, Smith & Nephew Associated, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, TV-am, Wills Group, James Wilkes, Wilson Bowden. **FRIDAY - Interims:** Bermuda International Bond Fund, Bridport-Gundry, Ferry Pickering Group, Magnetic Materials Group, Fiasco Beaufort Group, Davies & Metcalfe Group, Gaskell Broadloom, Macallan-Glenlivet, Norman Hay.

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3	38.0	72.5m	WPI Glo	255	+1
		119.5m	WCPS	262	+1
		262.6m	WPP	555	+21
		71.2m	Waco	230	-5
		141.0m	Waddington (J)	178	-3
		55.5m	Warrmouth	410	+20
		12.8m	Warvery Cam	83	+3
		16.5m	Yellowhammer	161	-2

7	18.1			
	19.9	83.7m	Allied Lon	115 +5
9	19.4	161.4m	Arlington Saca	204 +4
1		85.2m	Asaca	152 +19
9	25.2	25.8m	Baker Harris	240
3	17.7	45.7m	Berkley & Hay	26 +11
7	13.6	159.0m	Baton (P)	378 +5
7	21.9	182.1m	Bradford	645 +25
		688.1m	Br Land	300 +22

1 12.0	41.3m	Coca	142	+
1 19.0	16.1m	Cardi Gp	168	● +25
0 19.0	886.4m	Cap & Counties	383	● +30
6 25.8	6,046,000	Cardiff Prop	400	● +25
3 20.4	128.3m	Chessterfield	645	+75
1 18.6	90.4m	City Merchants	84	-2
9 13.8	10.2m	Clarke Nicholas	100	+7
	91.9m	Claydon	260	+7
B 4.8	73 6m	Connells	365	+15

15.2m	County B	150	• ..
24.9m	Cuddies	350	
169.0m	Danjan	915	+80
71.1m	Dares Estates	34½	+1½
45.5m	Debenham Tension	168	-2
31.2m	Dencora	185	+20
42.2m	Derwent Hidge	545	+7
61.6m	Egerton Trust	233	• +3
17.6m	Emerton A. Saver-	268	

68.1m	Estates Prop	250	+4
49.5m	Evens Of Leads	151	+6
15.4m	Free Oaks	71	+3
15.9m	Fletcher King	202	+9
136.1m	Frogmore	335	+22
28.6m	Glenzie	66	+1
75.5m	Grainger	393	+5
499.8m	Gr Portland	314	+21
303.5m	Greencoat	350	+26

6	241.3m	Hatfield Country Club	703	+3
0	218.8m	Kamerson	604	+38
0 22.0	763.4m	Do 'A' (bag)	567	+45
8	73.3m	Hampden Tst	68	..
9	12.3m	Hanover Druce	200	+10
	63.9m	Hardanger	725	+125
	119.2m	Helical Bar	305	+25
	—	Hong Kong Land	35	+1
3	57.8m	Inny Int	390	-1

247.8m	Lang Prop	425	+2
2,718.7m	Land Sec (adj)	540	+29
225.9m	Lon & Edin Tel	139	● ..
45.3m	Do 8% Cv	109	● ..
38.1m	Do 6 1/4%	265	● ..
88.9m	Lon & Mashro	174	+10
23.8m	Lon Securities	40	+5
119.2m	Lon Shop	228	● +8
196.2m	Luxon Brn	406	+8

22.8m	McInerney	178	
37.7m	McKay Soca	170	● +5
47.0m	Markedest	77	●
47.0m	Marler	62	+1
52.1m	Marvale Moore	370	-15
57.0m	Martin Int	102	-2
433.8m	Monteigh	176	● +8
57.9m	Montzwe	111 ^{1/2}	● +1 ^{1/2}
80.5m	Mozlow (A&J)	154	+1

4	24 Bm	Peristyle	108	-2
3	177.2m	Peachey	409	●+13
45.2	32.0m	Phoenix Prop	171	+4
8	47.4m	Priest Mariens	315	-2
2	135.4m	Prop Security	162	●+12
..	21.0m	Raplan	17½	-1½
..	150.2m	Regalan	163	+13
..	426.1m	Rosehaugh	842	+25
..	24.0m	Rout & Yarnation	370	●+10

0	22.4m	Sherrinbury	153	+2
0	97.2m	Sherrin Seas	76	+1
0	10.8m	Shield Gp	103	..
1	10.6m	Sinclair Goldsmith	98	..
4	773.5m	Slough Estates	279	+13
6	79.4m	Southern Prop	166	r -1
..	36.5m	Do 5.5% Ctr	90	r ..
..	89.8m	Speybank	347	+28
..	74.6m	Town Centre	82	+5

121.5m	Warner	251	+16
88.3m	Warford	820	+55
27.3m	Waterford	125	+7
237.7m	Wates	176	+6
12.4m	Webb (Joc)	484	..
5,413,000	West & Country	163	.

485.8m	Aspic Br Ports	534	+19
334.9m	Calcedonia	346	+1
35.5m	Clarkson (H)	175	-1
31.6m	Fisher (James)	133	+5
17.8m	Graig	740	+5
18.8m	Jacobs (J)	73	+2
50.0m	Morsey Docks	300	-10

7	8.1	81.2m	P & O 5.5%	122	+3
2	11.7	30.6m	Runcorn (Water)	235	-3
8	22.3	105.4m	Tiploak	308	+10
7	14.1	3,544,000	Turnbull Scott	665	+40
6	10.3				
4	9.3				
5	8.2				
5	11.0				
8	25.3				

SHOES, LEATHER

12.1m	Lambert Howarth	215	-7
48.7m	Pittard Garner	224	-3
48.0m	Strong & Fisher	263	+25
57.5m	Stylo	298	+36

TEXTILES

90.8m	Allegri Test	370	●-3
11 15.1	12.8m	Basta (John)	243
1 22.4	11.8m	Beckman (A)	116
9 15.1	5,127,000	Bolton	-1
8 19.5	25.0m	Br Michair	+6
1 1	21.5m	Coran	-2
7 14.8	1,260.7m	Courtside (ms)	+11
2 12.4	22.3m	Coolmore	100
2 23.0	208.3m	Crowther LH	+47

12.5m	Ernestown	121	+3
11.2m	Fraser (John)	128	+1
8,048,000	Gaskin Broadloom	167	..
3,627,000	Hickling Pentacost	60	+6
68.5m	Kingworth	175	+22
13.8m	Jerome (S)	235	+10
62.3m	Lamont	275	+12
36.4m	Leeds	380	+33
20.0m	Lister	122	-3

75.3m	Accessory freight	258	..
384.000	Munton	40	..
10.2m	Parkland 'A'	188	-4
101.5m	Roadkill	78	+4
6,419,000	SEET	160	+18
13.2m	Sekers	135	+9
58.8m	Order	110	-4
2,575,000	Smallshaw (P)	103	..

28.7m	Tomlinsons	600	+10
266.0m	Total	118½	..
2.169.0m	West Trust	38	..
9.880.000	Yorkville	207	+9

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2.11.5	5,813.0m BAT (sq)	458	+9
55.0	33.1m Carroll	138	..
..	1,284.3m Rothmans 'B' (sq)	433	+4

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend
 payment passed f Price at suspension of

9.2 Forecast earnings to Ex owner / Ex rights
9.63.6 share split / Tax-free .. No significance

EDUCATIONAL

POSTS



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1. INTRODUCTION

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- PROVIDE A COMPLETE SET OF TEXT BOOKS, WORK BOOKS WITH AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. ALL TRAINING MATERIAL WILL BE RETAINED BY THE U.A.E. AIR FORCE AT THE CONCLUSION OF CONTRACT.
- COMPANY IS TO ARRANGE FOR ALL KIND OF TRANSPORTATION FOR ITS EMPLOYEES TO AND FROM U.A.E. AND DURING THE PERIOD OF CONTRACT.
- THE COMPANY IS TO ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS ATTAIN AN ENGLISH COMPREHENSION LEVEL OF 75 AT THE END OF THE 32 WEEKS PERIOD.
- COMPANY WILL PERMIT A U.A.E. LIAISON OFFICER TO OBSERVE IN THE TESTING LABORATORY UNDER TESTING CONDITIONS.
- COMPANY WILL PROVIDE STUDENTS EITHER PRIOR TO OR NOT LATER THAN SEVEN
- DAYS AFTER COURSE COMPLETION FOR CERTIFICATION TESTING BY EITHER THE U.A.E. AIR FORCE OR U.K.L.O. UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MILITARY ATTACHE.
- COMPANY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVISIONING OF MEDICAL FACILITIES, BOARDING AND LODGING FOR ITS EMPLOYEES DURING THEIR STAY IN U.A.E.

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- NINE (9) APPROPRIATELY AIR-CONDITIONED CLASSROOMS FULLY FURNISHED. A SUPPLY ROOM, NEAR THE CLASSROOM AREA, WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.
- NECESSARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE LAB FACILITIES.
- SPONSORSHIP THROUGH U.A.E. GHO FOR ALL STAFF ASSIGNED TO THE PROGRAMME AND STATIONED IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. SPONSORSHIP WILL PROVIDE ALL ATTENDANT AMENITIES TO INCLUDE VISA APPROVAL FOR EMPLOYEES AND SPOUSES AT LEAST ONE (1) WEEK PRIOR TO START OF CONTRACT PERFORMANCE.
- PROVIDE A LIAISON OFFICER FOR STUDENT CONTACT, ABSENTEE REPORTING, COUNSELING, DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND STUDENT ILLNESS.

HAMPSHIRE NORTH FORELAND LODGE

Sherfield-on-Loddon
Basingstoke, RG27 0HT

SENIOR HOUSEMISTRESS

required for September 1988 or January 1989 to be in overall charge of boarding.

An adaptable, responsible person with boarding school experience needed. Part-time teaching available, but not essential.

Attractive salary based on age and experience.

185 boarders, girls 11-18. There is a qualified Nurse and full Matrons' department who are responsible for children's welfare.

Apply to the Headmistress, stating subject offered, if applicable, enclosing full C.V. and two referees.

DORSET INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (Post No ES951X)

This post involves close working contact with students etc. in a wide range of sporting activities. You will be required to assist the Sports Organiser and to undertake supervision and coaching of various sports. This will involve irregular working hours during term-time for which additional payment is made.

You should have the integrity to work without supervision and a versatility to adapt to many facets of sports involvement. In addition, a knowledge and practice of First Aid will be considered an advantage.

The salary will be within Scale 4 - £7,833 increments to £8,754. An irregular hours payment of 10% will be payable during term-time only (i.e. 36 weeks per year) and will be equalised over the year.

Further details and application form are obtainable from The Staffing Officer, Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Holland House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth BH1 8EZ. (Telephone: Bournemouth (0202) 290740).

Closing Date 5th April, 1988.

ASSISTANT SPORTS INSTITUTE ORGANISER/COACH

This post involves close working contact with students etc. in a wide range of sporting activities. You will be required to assist the Sports Organiser and to undertake supervision and coaching of various sports. This will involve irregular working hours during term-time for which additional payment is made.

You should have the integrity to work without supervision and a versatility to adapt to many facets of sports involvement. In addition, a knowledge and practice of First Aid will be considered an advantage.

The salary will be within Scale 4 - £7,833 increments to £8,754. An irregular hours payment of 10% will be payable during term-time only (i.e. 36 weeks per year) and will be equalised over the year.

Further details and application form are obtainable from The Staffing Officer, Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Holland House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth BH1 8EZ. (Telephone: Bournemouth (0202) 290740).

Closing Date 5th April, 1988.

ECONOMICS TEACHER

Private 6th form college requires full time or part time Economics teacher immediately for A level and GCSE courses.

Please ring Mander Portman Woodward 01 373 6251.

BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL

requires a

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

from September 1988

- Attractive Berkhamsted Salary & Allowance
- Strong Department with outstanding results
- Housing possible
- Removal expenses
- Educational Allowances for Children
- Extra-curricular commitment expected

Apply for more details from the Headmaster's Secretary (Mrs. Ogg: 04427 3236) and in writing (with C.V. and names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees) to the Headmaster, Berkhamsted School, Berkhamsted, HP4 2BE, as soon as possible. First round of interviews will take place 29th-31st March.

A CAREER CHALLENGE

FPS (Management) Ltd.

We have an opening for 4/5 ambitious, career-minded individuals, aged 23+ in the exciting world of finance and investment. Essentials are self-motivation, application to hard work and the ability to absorb new ideas rapidly in wide ranging fields, including Taxation, Investment, Insurance, Mortgages and Pensions.

Financially, this is a highly rewarding opportunity with excellent promotion prospects due to our aggressive expansion programme over the next six months.

If you feel that this is your kind of career, and you want to work at our "City Branch" in the heart of the country's financial centre, please ring

ROBIN (Personnel Manager) on 01-283 6104 Mon - Fri. 186/190 Bishopgate, London EC2M 4NL.

BRISTOL COLSTON'S SCHOOL BRISTOL

HMC DAY AND BOARDING

330 BOYS 13 - 18 AND VI FORM GIRLS

An enthusiastic young graduate is required for September 1988 to teach FREM1 to GCSE and A LEVEL. The post will ideally suit a person with a few years teaching experience although a candidate direct from University of Polytechnic will not be ruled out.

Applications, together with the name and addresses of two referees, should be sent to the HEADMASTER, COLSTON'S SCHOOL, STAPLETON, BRISTOL BS16 1BJ from who further details are available.

HORIZONS

A guide to career choice

Into the old inky trade

A career in journalism does not have to start with a job as a junior reporter on a local newspaper. Every year, at least 5,000 inquirers ask the Periodical Training Council about work as a journalist in the periodical press, and an untold number of others write directly to editors or seek information about training courses.

Ron Sumption, director of the PTC, the periodical publishing industry's official training body, estimates that more than 4,500 titles, employing about 5,000 editorial staff, are regularly published in the UK.

The titles are diverse: from *Accountancy Age* to *ZK Computing Monthly*, and taking in publications such as *The Engineer*, *Police Review*, *Toy Trader* and *UK Press Gazette* along the way.

Entrants to journalism seeking work on newspapers invariably see themselves as reporters; they also express a desire to be involved in matters of "general interest". The would-be periodical journalist usually, and usually mistakenly, defines a career in terms of "writing" for a major magazine title, of the kind to be found on the display racks at W.H.Smith.

Such titles are, however, "very much the tip of the iceberg", says Mr Sumption. "They are no more than about one-fifth of the total number of published titles. The majority of publications belong to the 'business press' - what used to be referred to as the 'trade, technical and professional press' - and it is here that most job opportunities lie. We estimate that just over 200 jobs become available each year. This is the reality of employment as a periodical journalist."

Business press titles are read by opinion-formers and decision-makers. Collectively, their readership represent the trade, industrial and professional interests of the country - interests which are of enormous consequence for the nation's well-being. Decisions are made and opinions formed in large part from the reading of the business press. No other medium can provide so much information about specialized sectors of economic activity. The business press is a vital part of any "community of interest".

Periodical journalists are influential, a position which can appear out of all proportion to the circulation figures of their publications, which are often tiny by the standards of national newspapers. And if circulations are small, so are editorial staffs: many monthly titles will be produced by a team of two - an editor and an assistant editor - and few business press titles have editorial staffs of more than eight or so.

This means that the periodical journalist will be heavily involved in the whole process of production - from

Getting into journalism doesn't mean what used to be called Fleet Street.

A satisfying career can be had in periodical journals, where entrants can also find some business influence, says Anthony Cox

reporting and then through to dealing with the printers - in a way which would appear altogether alien to a newspaper journalist.

The work of the periodical journalist starts with reporting. The editor of any periodical must ensure a constant flow of accurate, up-to-date information to keep his readership interested and his title's good reputation. Journalists have to work hard at maintaining their contact with the people their publications need to know. They must regularly visit factories and other plant, attend social functions and cover press conferences and exhibitions, in the UK and overseas.

Each post brings more news and every telephone call can mean another story. A great deal of time is spent following up stories from press releases and "ringing round" from contacts book to find out what is happening in the trade.

The generation of editorial copy is, however, only the beginning of the process of periodical production. Because of the small size of most staffs, the journalist who produces the original copy may well then sub-edit it, plan the page on which it will appear, write headlines, select illustrations and supervise the preparation of all the editorial matter right up to the point of printing.

Periodical journalists may gain great satisfaction from a sense of "belonging". When publications have small staffs, small circulations and a clearly-defined specialist readership, journalists find themselves becoming a part of the trade or industry they are covering. Eventually they may speak for their readers: it is not uncommon to see specialist periodical journalists appearing on television - particularly in news bulletins - to comment on events in their field.

Obviously, the successful periodical journalist has to enjoy meeting people and should get on well with them when he does, but that is only a beginning. The journalist needs three sets of "qualities": those that are personal, those that can be learned or acquired and those that demand an innate flair.

The successful journalist should be

methodical, should value accuracy and should adopt a critical approach to his subject matter. He must be prepared to build up writing skills and extend his general knowledge; he must learn to work under pressure and acquire shorthand skills, a knowledge of type and of the planning ("lay-out") of pages. He will need to know about the law as it affects journalists. A degree of flair is required when it comes to writing headlines and developing the all-important "news sense" which allows a journalist to spot a "story".

Mr Sumption says of those who measure up: "More than 75 per cent of the intake to industry each year are those who have had full-time post A-level training."

Training courses are offered at centres around the country. The largest single provider of periodical training is the London College of Printing, situated at the Elephant and Castle, in the heart of south-east London.

Brian Bedwell, senior admissions tutor at the college, says: "We take about 100 students a year for training as periodical journalists, and we get about five applications for each place. Roughly half the places are for the A-level candidates and half for graduates."

"Such is the competition, that our September courses are full by May."

Starting salaries for periodical journalists hover around £8,000 a year, but at the upper levels, says Mr Sumption, "top salaries can equal those on offer in national newspapers."

Peter Law, who trained with LCP and is still in his twenties, joined the *new Building Enquirer* as news editor just over four years ago. Three years later he left for a reporting job in Fleet Street, but a few months ago he returned to the Building group to edit the new title.

Job security and the fringe benefits that come from working in the business press "compensate for a salary which, although attractive, could be bettered on a national newspaper," he says.

"You can earn a lot in Fleet Street, but you would be doing the same job, more or less, day in, day out. I get the opportunity to exercise both editorial and management skills. I have the opportunity to influence the direction my company is taking. Only very rarely would a journalist in Fleet Street get that."

"I feel part of a team - and that isn't just a cliché," he says.

Information about a career in periodical journalism may be obtained from: The Periodical Training Council, Imperial House, 15-19 Kingsway, London, WC2 6UN (please remember to enclose an 18p postage stamp).

On Thursday: A master's degree in journalism.

Leave school with 'A' levels Start a career with Shell UK

IN THE LONDON HEADQUARTERS OF ONE OF THE U.K.'s LARGEST OIL AND PETROCHEMICAL COMPANIES.

We have several interesting opportunities available for school-leavers who are seeking permanent employment later this year.

Initially there will be a chance to gain work experience and knowledge of the company in a variety of clerical posts, before a permanent assignment is obtained.

If you already have at least five academic 'O' levels, including Maths and English, expect to obtain good passes in three 'A' levels and are ready to begin a challenging career, then why not consider Shell UK as your entry point into the world of work.

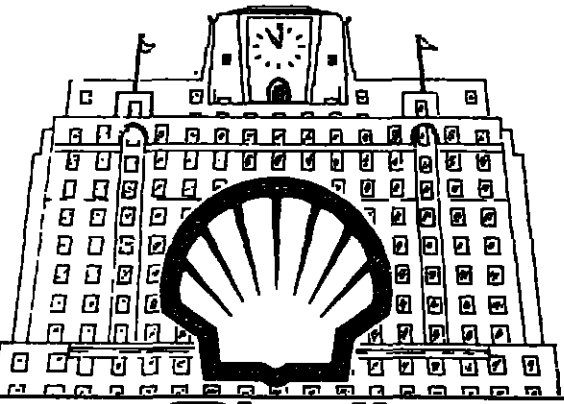
You will be encouraged to study for further qualifications whenever appropriate and if you are interested in studying for a specialist career then training can be given in some areas.

If you are enthusiastic, ambitious and aged between 18-20 then we would be pleased to hear from you. You will receive a starting salary of at least £8860 p.a. (including London allowance) plus an excellent benefits package including free lunches and extensive sports and social facilities.

Telephone 01-257 3929 for an application form, quoting reference number 8/017.

Shell UK Limited, UKPCD/45, Shell-Mex House, Strand, London WC2R 0DX.

Completed application forms must be received by Monday 18th April.



ROWETT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB2 9SB

Head of Biochemistry Division

(Re-advertised)

Applications are invited for the post of Head of Biochemistry Division from senior scientists with a proven record of independent research in animal biochemistry and considerable senior management experience.

The person appointed would be Head of a Division incorporating three units dealing with mineral metabolism, collagen and bone growth and lipid biochemistry. He/she would be involved in helping scientists to develop their programmes which involve intensive research across the Institute's scientific programme.

The Divisional Head assumes administrative responsibility for a large number of individually-funded scientists and a senior management responsibility to the Institute as a whole. The appointee would also be expected to establish his/her own research team and provide research team and provide research leadership within the Institute.

Salary range £18,786 to £25,335. Non-contributory superannuation scheme. The Institute is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute. Tel. 0224 712751 Ext. 338.

Closing date: 11th April, 1988.

LABAN CENTRE REGISTRAR

LABAN CENTRE

C GRADE £14,559 - £16,457 (including London Weighting)

The Laban Centre for Movement & Dance is looking for an experienced senior administrator to be responsible for the areas of Finance, Personnel and Academic Administration.

The Registrar will be the administrative co-ordinator for the Centre and therefore responsible for instituting efficient use of time and resources. He/she will also be expected to develop the computerisation of the finance and record-keeping within the Registry.

The Laban Centre is a private educational charity offering undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in dance. It has a student body of approximately 250.

Write or telephone for a job description to: Chris de Marigny, Public Relations Officer, The Laban Centre, 55, Eatham Road, London W14, Tel. 01-603 4128.

Closing date for applications - 6th April. Preliminary interviews will be held during the week of 11th April.

ST JAMES'S SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

Shorthand/Typing Tutor Req for Apr '88 and Sep '88.

Training even, Would suit ex-sec, or mother teaching school holidays.

Contact Principal: 01 373 3852

WOMEN'S EDUCATION AUTHORITY Primary School, 67 Ladbroke Ave, London NW10 7RQ Tel: 020 8391 1000. Applications are invited from qualified teachers for positions in both infant and junior departments from September 1988. Successful candidates will be invited for interview. Please send your CV to the Chairman of Governors, at the above address.



Hampshire DUNHURST

Bedeles Junior School (A.P.S. Co-Educational Boarding)

ENGLISH

Required for September, 1988 a teacher to co-ordinate the teaching of English throughout the school. An ability to teach Design based subjects, especially textiles, as well would be an advantage but not absolutely essential.

This is an exciting opportunity to work in a stimulating, creative environment where there are excellent facilities available.

Special Bedeles and Dunhurst Salary Scale.

Apply to the Headmaster, Dunhurst, Alton Road, Steep, Petersfield, Hants GU32 2DP, enclosing curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RE-ADVERTISEMENT

SENIOR INSPECTOR, TERTIARY

£21,750 - £23,751

This is a new post and applicants should be well qualified, suitably experienced and have a strong commitment to the development of the service.

This is a re-advertisement and previous applicants will automatically be re-considered.

Application forms and further particulars are available from The Director of Education, P.O. Box 101, Town Hall and Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN to whom applications should be forwarded so as to arrive not later than 5th April, 1988.

borough of sunderland

MANCHESTER COLLEGE OXFORD

(founded 1786)

Places available for London External Honours degrees in English, History, Music, Philosophy, Theology; Cambridge Diploma/Certificate in Religious Studies; Oxford Diploma in Social Administration and Oxford Certificates in Theology, at this small residential College in the centre of Oxford. Prospectus and application forms from: The Academic Secretary, Manchester College, Oxford OX1 3TD (phone: 0865 241 514)

LUTON COLLEGE of Higher Education

Facilities for the development of our expanding range of Advanced Level Business Study courses.

Find out more by visiting Luton College, Bedfordshire MK4 3ET or 227 at the Luton College Centre, Luton, Bedfordshire MK1 1LH. Please call 0455 511111.

State GC is an equal opportunities employer.

UNIVERSITY APPTS

MONASH UNIVERSITY Melbourne, Australia

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Monash University, Victoria 3168, Australia. The Dean will be responsible for the overall management of the Faculty of Medicine, including the development of the Faculty's educational, research and service activities. The Dean will also be responsible for the Faculty's financial and administrative management. The Dean will be a member of the University's Council and will be expected to represent the Faculty in the community. The Dean will be a senior academic and will be expected to have a strong commitment to the development of the Faculty of Medicine. The Dean will be a member of the University's Council and will be expected to represent the Faculty in the community. The Dean will be a senior academic and will be expected to have a strong commitment to the development of the Faculty of Medicine.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
IN ENGINEERING
LECTURESHIPS

Arising from a series of important new developments in the Faculty of Engineering, applications are invited for six new lectureships available from September 1988. In each case, the University is seeking to extend the present range of research activities. Excellent opportunities will be available to new staff to establish and develop their own interests in both teaching and research.

Department of Civil and Structural Engineering (Ref. R.76/A)

1 Lectureship

1 Temporary Lectureship (for three years in the first instance) These posts are the first of a series of appointments planned for the next three years, intended to expand the teaching and research activities of the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering.

Applicants should have interests in one or more of the following subject areas:

- *Structural Dynamics
- *Geotechnics
- *Construction Management
- *Computer-Aided Design

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Professor T. H. Hanna (0742-768555 ext 5061)

Department of Control Engineering (Ref. R.76/A)

1 Lectureship

This post is the last in a series of new appointments made available as part of the Engineering and Technology Programme. Applicants should have experience in one or more of the following subject areas:

- *Computer-Aided Design
- *Real-Time Control
- *Expert Systems
- *Process Modelling and Simulation
- *Signal Processing

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Mr. E. Rose (0742-768555 ext 5133).

School of Materials (Ref. R.76/A)

2 Lectureships

These posts form part of a major initiative in the field of composite materials which will build upon the existing expertise of the School of Materials in this area. As part of this expansion, a substantial investment is being made in advanced facilities for surface analysis. Further appointments are planned over the next four years.

Applicants should have expertise in the following areas:

- *Polymer composite materials
- *Advanced ceramic composites

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Professor J. E. Bailey (0742-768555 ext 6141).

Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering (Ref. R.76/A)

1 Lectureship

This post is the second in a series of appointments planned as part of an interdisciplinary development in Design and Manufacture involving collaboration with the Departments of Computer Science and Control Engineering and with the School of Management and Economic Studies. Applicants should have experience in one of the following areas:

- *Computer-aided engineering techniques in machine element and systems design
- *Electromechanical computer control of manufacturing systems
- *The use of IKBS to link elements of the design-manufacture process

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Professor D. R. Hayhurst (0742-768555 ext 5441).

Except in the School of Materials, where appointments will be restricted to the Grade A scale, salaries will be on either the Grade A or Grade B scales for non-clinical lecturers (£9,260 - £14,500 per annum or £15,105 - £19,310 per annum) according to age, qualifications and experience. Further particulars are available from the Personnel Department (Academic Staffing), The University, Sheffield S10 2TN to which applications (6 copies) should be submitted by 22 April 1988. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

ASTON UNIVERSITY
MANAGEMENT CENTRE
LECTURESHIP IN
MANAGEMENT
SCIENCE

Aston University Management Centre is seeking to appoint a Lecturer in Management Science within the Operations and Information Management Division, headed by Professor Colin Lewis. The appointee will be expected to contribute to the teaching and research programme of the Division and to participate in work on the design, development and evaluation of management systems and the Centre's teaching. These duties will involve both computer-based and role-play elements. The post arises from Aston's participation in the IBM Research Institute's Business Education Project, which aims to improve the teaching of business and management through the use of Information Technology.

Candidates should possess a good honours degree in a subject related to management science, and have some experience of policy analysis. Familiarity with computers and with running business games will also be advantageous.

The appointment will be for a period of three years initially, with the possibility of renewal or subsequent transfer to a continuing appointment.

Initial salary will be within and may be up to the maximum of the range:

Lecturer Grade A (£9,260 to £14,500 per annum) or Lecturer Grade B (£15,105 to £19,310 per annum)

Applications forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office (Academic Staff), Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET. Tel: 021 359 3070 (4 lines). Closing date for the receipt of applications is 22 April 1988.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ESRC STUDENTSHIPS

The University of Leeds is an ESRC recognised institution for the receipt of full-time research studentships. The University offers a wide range of opportunities in the departments listed below for studentships for 1988-89 are particularly welcomed in the areas indicated:

ECONOMIC STUDIES (economic and social history, industrial and labour studies, macroeconomic modelling and forecasting, monetary policy, public sector, economic policy, transport studies). Contact: Mr. H. Radley, School of Economic Studies.

EDUCATION (general and specific areas of research in educational planning, assessment, learning and teaching, curriculum studies, educational policy, and management; computer based learning; educational psychology; educational research; primary education). Contact: Dr. D.A. Sargent, School of Education.

GEOGRAPHY (urban and regional studies including geographical information systems, regional and sub-regional economic analysis, population and migration studies, environmental studies). Contact: Mr. M. Clark, School of Geography.

POLITICS (British politics and administration; the politics and political economy of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East). Contact: Dr. D.S. Bell, Department of Politics.

Candidates who wish to apply for studentships are advised to contact appropriate members of staff as soon as possible (tel: 0532 457711).

An Equal Opportunity Employer

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Temporary Lectureships in Law

Applications are invited for three temporary Lectureships in the areas of Common Law, Property Law and Computer Law respectively, for two years from September 1988 with the possibility of extension. Initial salaries will be on the Grade A scale for non-clinical lecturers (£9,260 - £11,680 per annum), according to age, qualifications and experience.

Informal enquiries to Mr. John Blinke, Department of Law (0742-768555 ext 674/677). Further particulars from the Personnel Department (Academic Staffing), The University, Sheffield S10 2TN to which applications (6 copies) should be submitted by 15 April 1988. Please quote reference number R.76/A.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

PROFESSORSHIP OF STATISTICAL SCIENCE

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the newly established Professorship of Statistical Science in the Department of Statistics. The appointee of the professorship is at present 226,905.

Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees should be received not later than 16 May 1988 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The University is an equal opportunity employer.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

LECTURESHIPS IN LAW

Applications are invited for the above post in the Faculty of Law for one year from 1 October 1988 with salary in the Lecturer Scale Grade A (£10,710 to £15,950 including London Allowance).

Further details and application forms are available from Mr. G.A. Culbert, Assistant Personnel Officer, King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS. Closing date for receipt of applications 29 April 1988. Quoting ref: No. 72.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CHAIR OF THE HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA AT THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

The Senate invite applications for the above Chair which will become vacant from 1 October 1988 on the retirement of Professor K. A. Ballhucich.

Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to the Teachers' Section, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 29 April 1988.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

CHAIR OF ITALIAN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the above post which will become vacant on 1st October 1988 on the retirement of Professor C.P. Broad. The salary will be in the professorial range (minimum £23,380).

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the University, University of Edinburgh, 63 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LS, with whom applications (12 copies), including curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged not later than 15th April 1988. Overseas candidates need submit only one copy of the application. PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE NO. 53/88

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

FACULTY OF LAW

Applications are invited for two LECTURESHIPS IN LAW (one an established post the second a three year appointment) established from 1st September 1988. Applications should be submitted to the Registrar, University of Bristol, Senate House, Malet Street, Bristol BS1 1TL, from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 29 April 1988

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

CHAIR IN STATISTICS

The University invites applications for the Chair in Statistics within the Department of Mathematics. It is expected that the person appointed will have interests in some area of mathematical statistics or probability.

Suitably qualified candidates are invited to submit applications, including the names of three referees, not later than 16th May, 1988. Further particulars of the appointment may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol, BS8 1TL.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL FEDERATION

Applications are invited for the above post in the Faculty of Law. Candidates are required to have a special interest in SEC Law, so they may contribute fully to the teaching of SEC Law and to developing the activities of the Centre of European Law, but must also be able to teach another subject.

The appointment, which is for 3 years, will date from 1 October 1988 and will be made at a point within the Lecturer scale (£10,710 to £22,780 including London Allowance) commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Further details and application forms are available from Mr. G.A. Culbert, Assistant Personnel Officer, King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS. Closing date for receipt of applications 29 April 1988. Quoting ref: No. 72.

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Sec with mature, professional approach reqd by Head of Dept. Fast typing, fluent French and exp of diary and travel arrangements reqd. S/H and WP adv.

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Busy but rewarding position with excellent career prospects.

Please send detailed CV giving a daytime telephone number to: **Beckett & Duggan, Chancery Securities PLC, 14 Fitzharding St, London W1H 9PL.**

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WINE MERCHANTS SW1 Sling Eng/French PA 24/7. Shorthand typing in both languages needed by Marketing Director. A connoisseur with clients worldwide. Some audio and in WP welcome + strong outgoing and admin ability to run office. £11,500 + bonus.

TRAVEL PROPERTY LEASURES SW1 Eminent Chairman with immensely diversified interests seeks mature well educated PA with 100/50 to participate in and organise his business life with dedication and intelligence. Current driving licence useful. £14,000 + fringe benefits.

MUSIC INDUSTRY W1 Business offers Director shares with PA 25-32 close involvement in negotiating contracts for 'pop stars and artists'. He needs a secretary with good shorthand and typing skills. £11,500 + bonus free tickets records etc.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL SW15 Sympathetic cultivated personality ideally with medical background needed for leading consultant. Some audio good typing and ability to organise clinics, seminars etc. Good salary + free lunch.

PROPERTY DEVELOPER MAYFAIR Entrepreneur seeks Private Sec 25-30 who harmonises and enjoys one to one commitment. Must be well educated, presented and socially confident. Minimal shorthand and good typing. Luxury home. £12,000 + fringe benefits.

MARKETING NEW MALDEN 50% secretarial 50% admin as PA 30's/40's to senior Director you need some shorthand excellent typing and computer literacy. £10,000, a responsible committed attitude and the ability to hold the fort during his frequent trips abroad.

TEMPS WELCOME - HIGH PAY!
01-589 8807
JOYCE GUINNESS
21 BROMPTON ARCADE NIGHTS/SHIRAZ SW5
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY/PA
Required for Financial Services Company. Preferably with WP experience. Young lively office. Salary negotiable.

Phone Angela on 427 6646

BOYCE

ADVERTISING £13,000
50% Secretarial

A high flyer in a well known Advertising Agency is looking for a Secretary/PA to assist him. 50% of your workload is at executive level - we need someone well groomed with lots of get up and go! Age 22. Speeds 80/60.

£14,000 - and that's tempting through us!

Please call us for an interview on 01-404 4434.

THE AGENCY 01-404 4434

BOYCE

EXCITING SECRETARIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Governing Body for Motor Sport in the UK is building a new look to meet the exciting technological challenge of the 1990s.

Our Headquarters are shortly moving to a new hi-tech building in Colnbrook (near Heathrow). We will need experienced secretaries for the Director of Marketing and the General Secretary, as well as other executive levels.

An enthusiasm for Motor Sport would be an advantage.

Excellent salary and benefits are offered.

Please write with C.V. details and present salary to:

Director of Marketing, RACMSA Ltd, 31 Belgrave Square, London W1X 8QH.

High-Tech PR
£11,000 - Croyden

Smart, stylish, highly-successful specialist PR consultancy offer a high-profile, challenging opening for an intelligent, self-confident individual. As a key member of a small, close-knit team, you will enjoy a richly varied role - handling all office administration; liaising extensively with clients; setting up presentations; organising photo sessions, press conferences as well as providing secretarial support. The flexibility to 'muck-in' essential. Fast, accurate typing requested. Call 01-409 1232.

THE WORK SHOP

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Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, North London.

sclopes, snow complete, spring snow on a firm base; vertical runs, 2,000ft; hills and small basins, clear; snow level, 2,000ft. Larches upper and middle runs, snow complete, spruce lower slopes, simple muzzles, snow, spruce snow; vertical runs, 7,000ft; hill and main roads clear; snow level, 2,000ft. Forecast for today: rather cloudy with showers in all areas, although there may be intense prolonged rain at first. Over Glasgow: freezing level about 5,500ft; fresh south-westerly wind. Outlook for tomorrow: dry at first with sunny periods but rain in Glencoe late morning spreading to first Glen Gairn. Freezing level about 6,000ft. Cairngorm, Glenelg and the Lochs.

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